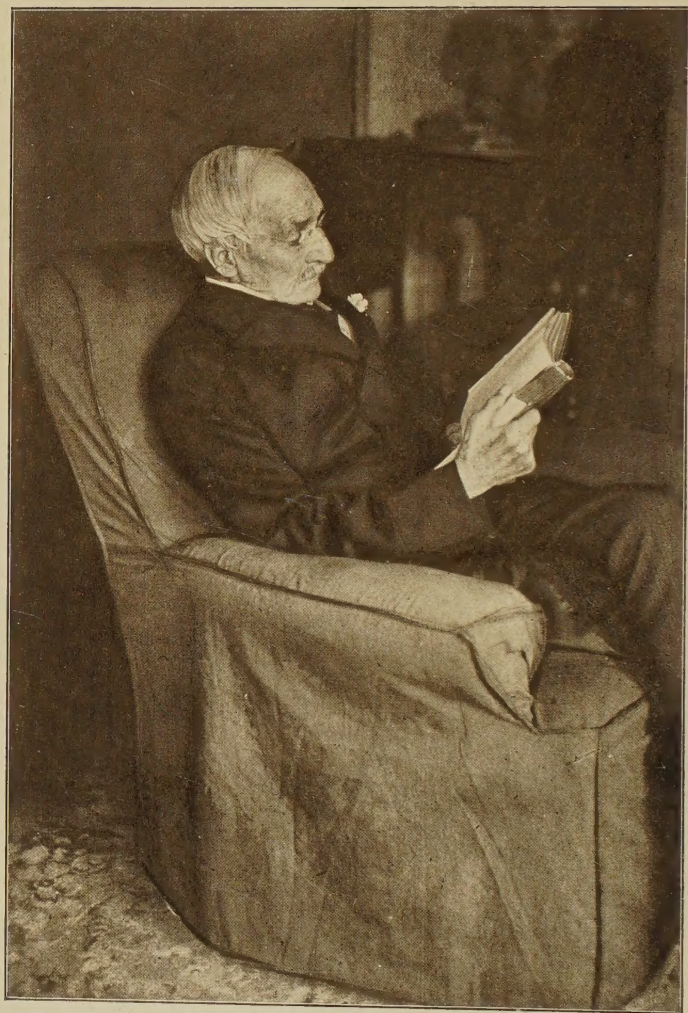


*Reminiscences
of an
Octogenarian.
Chas H. Haswell.*



WITHDRAWN



Chas. H. Starwell

REMINISCENCES

OF NEW YORK BY
AN OCTOGENARIAN

(1816 TO 1860)

BY

CHAS. H. HASWELL

MEMBER AM., BOSTON, AND PHILADELPHIA SOCIETIES
OF C. E., AND INST'N OF N. E. OF U. S., AND INST'NS
OF C. E. AND N. A. OF GREAT BRITAIN, ETC.

ILLUSTRATED

*Hear Land o' Cakes, and brither Scots,
Frae Maidenkirke to Johnny Groats—
If there's a hole in a' your coats,
I rede you tent it ;
A chiel's amang ye takin' notes,
And, faith, he'll prent it.*

—BURNS.



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By CHAS. H. HASWELL.

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tecture, Masonry, Steam-Vessels, Mills, &c.; Limes,
Mortars, Cements, &c.; Orthography of Technical Words
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Inscribed to

AUGUSTUS VANHORNE STUYVESANT

AS A TRIBUTE TO THE DESCENDANT AND WORTHY REPRESENTATIVE
OF A PEOPLE WHOSE INTEGRITY AND INTELLIGENCE
GAVE RISE TO THE SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL
EMINENCE OF NEW YORK CITY

BY HIS FRIEND

THE AUTHOR

PREFACE

IN the following pages it is not designed to furnish a history of the city during the period designated, as there are several histories in existence which in detail and extent are in advance of any essay that either my recollection or information would attain. It is purposed only to give my recollection of some matters and occurrences that came under my observation or knowledge, and of some individuals who were prominently before the public; referring to matters previous and subsequent to the period embraced only when necessary to illuminate the subject treated of. Of the existence and advent of daily newspapers, only such are given as I knew of; and in a similar manner, the changes in churches and in the names of streets recited are those of which I was cognizant.

The matters and incidents now given were mainly collected some twelve years previous to this date, and were laid aside, inasmuch as strict professional authorship for a full period of sixty-five years was so much at variance with the graphic recital of ordinary incidental and personal events, that I doubted the propriety of relying wholly upon my ability to do justice either to the subjects or to myself.

The repeated recommendations of some friends ultimately decided me to publish, and in order to meet my inexperience in personal recitals, I submitted the MS. to Mr. J. E. Learned for his criticisms, and aid in the

filling of some voids whereof my recollection of full details was deficient, both of which duties he has very acceptably performed.

I am indebted to Messrs. Harper & Brothers for many of the illustrations in the book, and to Mr. J. F. Phayre for assistance in some of the details of the work.

Not one of the illustrations of structures here given, with the exception of St. Paul's Church and the Jumel Mansion, is now in primitive existence; the Jail, Vandenhoevel Mansion, (Burnham's) Claremont, Tammany Hall second, Methodist Church in John Street, and Castle Garden, although existing, have all been altered or added to, and some appropriated to purposes other than originally designed.

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REMINISCENCES OF AN OCTOGENARIAN

1816-1860

REMINISCENCES OF AN OCTOGENARIAN

CHAPTER I

1816.—JACOB RADCLIFFE, MAYOR

THEY to whom memories and traditions of the city of New York are known and dear, who love her fame and place, the noble setting of her familiar scenery, and the very stones of her streets, have long deplored the lack of civic pride among her inhabitants. Smaller cities of the New World have wisely cherished their inheritance from a fruitful past and communicated it to successive generations. The stories of the "Boston Tea Party" and the "Boston Massacre," for example, have been spread so widely by persistent and most proper efforts of the Bostonians, as to become part of almost universal knowledge. The night adventure of the pseudo-Indians is known, and Crispus Attucks* has become a child's hero. It would be matter for surprise, however, were the average New-Yorker, born and bred, to discover acquaintance with the "New York Tea Party," which, without the cover of night or Indian disguise, sent one of the laden tea-ships out of our harbor back to England, and upset the cargo of another into the waters of the bay; or had he so much as heard of the battle of Golden Hill,† wherein

* A half-Indian or mulatto, killed in the affray on the 5th of March, 1770, known as the "Boston Massacre." He was charged with being a leader in the riot, and his body was borne by the surviving participants to it, and buried in the public burial-ground with the other victims.

† The high ground between Cliff and Gold streets near John. In

the first blood of the Revolution was spilt, two months earlier than the "Boston Massacre," and more than five years before the Lexington affair. I have no controversy with our sister cities who have thus acted wiser than we, and am not jealous of their fame; on the contrary, I commend them for example of life and instruction of manners.

Not to be jealous of the historic property of neighbor cities is no exalted virtue in a New-Yorker, since the romantic and glorious history of his own town should suffice him. Twice has it been in Dutch occupancy; twice, or even thrice, under the British (if we count their return after the brief possession by the revolted Colonies); it was the scene, a hundred and sixty years since, of the first victorious fight for liberty of the press; the birth-place of the "Sons of Liberty," organized ten years before the Revolution to resist the Stamp Act; and in the same year the meeting-place of the American Congress (of nine Colonies), with its Bill of Rights, asserting the sole power of the Colonies to tax themselves. And then, the more than seven years' famine and blight, the wreck under occupation by the enemy during almost the whole Revolutionary period, the city's commerce gone, population decreased more than one-half, one-quarter of the houses burned, and many of the remainder—seized for barracks, hospitals, and prisons—

January, 1770, some British soldiers sawed down a Liberty-pole which the "Liberty Boys" had erected in celebration of the repeal of the Stamp Act. This action involved frequent and almost daily conflicts between the "boys" and the soldiers; and in a conflict soon after the soldiers were worsted, and the affair was from that time known as the battle of Golden Hill, where was shed the first blood of the Revolution that followed. Memory of the Gouden Bergh, as the Dutch called it, survives in the name Gold Street. Cliff Street perpetuates the name of Dirk Van der Cliff, and John Street that of another ancient worthy, John Harpendingh, who gave to the Dutch congregation the ground for their North Church.

fallen into decay. No other American city knew a tithe of such distress for country's sake, or gathered into its annals such store of various memories meanwhile—tragical, humorous, pathetic, romantic—as fills the pages of New York's history for those stirring years; battles over the ground where her new quarters are now rising; retreats, captures, evasions, daring personal exploits, horrors of prison-ships, and every kind of moving incident, from Howe's unlucky delay over Mrs. Murray's Madeira¹ to the tragedy of Nathan Hale. And even now the city's soil is sown with relics of block-houses and Revolutionary earthworks as reminders of some of these things.

Then came British evacuation and Washington's triumphal entry, followed almost at once by New York's astonishing revival, and opening of her famous career of prosperity and precedency. Soon afterwards followed Washington's inauguration and residence in New York, with the beginnings of the new government in the midst of the rising city. Surely there is no need for us to envy our neighbors such tales as they may claim and own of "the great days of old."

Of New York's indifference to her own historic treasures, it has been often said that she is too big and busy to care for such things; and a narrow mind, vaunting itself nevertheless as large and superior, has sometimes added that these matters are proper aliment only for the provincial spirit in smaller towns, where people have little other employment or cause for activity than to dwell on the past, and where the days are long. Happily, the propriety of this large-sounding but small-minded declaration is beginning more generally to be doubted; more and more people are discerning the truth that a fond attachment to one's city is not an unmetropolitan quality; and though New York is larger and busier now than ever, it is in these latter days that indications

abound and multiply of a re-birth among us of civic pride. Perhaps this is largely due to the spirit engendered by our modern societies, organized (and much to be praised for their design) to perpetuate remembrance of "old, unhappy, far-off things, and battles long ago"—the Society of the Colonial Wars, the "Sons and the Daughters of the Revolution," "of the American Revolution," etc., etc. These, although they are not devoted to New York, must yet of necessity pay great tribute to her history. To them, or some of them, and to the feelings they inspire, are due the tablets marking many historic spots within our borders; the care to preserve unspoiled memorable sites and other objects; the fine statue of Nathan Hale in the City Hall Park, holding out perpetually to the throng of passers the graven inscription of his last regret—that he had but one life to give for his country. Something of Hale's spirit (we hope it may not seem fantastic to say) appears to be passing, however feebly or slowly, into the blood of New-Yorkers. Again they are caring for their city, as did their forefathers, with a nourished pride, not merely in her growth, her luxury and splendors, her unexampled financial credit and marvellous reach of business transactions, but also in her history and traditions.

To forward this good work is the main purpose of this volume, wherein some of the earlier recollections of eighty years are set down, while yet time and strength serve for that purpose. My hope is thus to fix some portions of the general history of New York in "the immortality of print," thereby to enliven the growing interest in the past of our beloved city, to increase attachment to her fortunes, inspire reverence for her great citizens, their good deeds and high achievements, her memories and monuments; and so in some degree to heighten that just pride in citizenship, which is perhaps

the mainspring of patriotism. The changes, physical and social, that occurred in New York during the period amounting to more than the life of a generation, which, in these pages, is to come under review; in its topography, commerce, manufactures, in the customs, modes of life and intercourse of its inhabitants, were so great and varied that the instance of friends cognizant of the opportunities I have enjoyed to observe these mutations, further prompts me to essay a recital of such changes and a relation of incidents that have fallen under my observation, supported either by a distinct recollection or by reference for verification and dates to the daily records of the period. I arrest the work at the close of 1860, because that date ends the period "before the war," after which more modern conditions prevailed, and it is unnecessary to remind a large portion of our citizens of customs and occurrences subsequent to that date. Notes and relations similar to these, but of more recent date, will unquestionably be supplied from other hands in the future, and I confine myself herein to that which, in point of time, may by the general public fairly be termed history. I have held rather closely to dates, as they appear in my note-books, somewhat to the detriment of literary form, but on the whole concluding that order to be a needful clue for myself and my readers to follow through the wilderness of years. Gladly would I avoid the frequent appearance of the pronoun of the first person singular, but the use of it is a high convenience; the first person plural employed throughout a volume such as this sounds pretentious and absurd, besides causing a want of directness in communication between writer and reader, while the constraint of so-called impersonal verbs, or of the periphrastic manner in such phrases as "the author," "the present writer," "the observer," is held to be intolerable.

Readers of the present day may imagine for themselves

the conditions of New York in 1816, on considering the fact that at that date the limits of the city as indicated by its dwellings, with the exception of a cluster of houses, etc., at the locations known as Harlem (One Hundred and Tenth to One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Street); Greenwich Village (Perry to Horatio Street, and Bleecker Street to the river); Bloomingdale, or Harsenville (on Broadway, from Sixty-sixth to Seventy-third Street); Manhattanville (about Manhattan Street); Yorkville (in the vicinity of Eighty-sixth Street and Third Avenue); and "Manhattan Island," as it was termed (a part of the main-land being intersected by a marsh in the vicinity of the ship-yards on the East River, from Rivington to Tenth Street), were clearly defined to be below Canal Street on the west, and irregularly below Prince and Rivington streets on the east side; its population being 93,634, and very few of its citizens enjoying the luxury of maintaining their own carriages.

In addition to increase in width by the establishment of an extended exterior or bulkhead line and the filling out thereto, the topography of the original area has been materially changed. Thus the many slips or basins on the river's front for the accommodation of vessels, as Rivington, Delancey, Broome, Grand, Pike, Market, Roosevelt, Peck, Burling, Maiden Lane, Coffee House (so named from the Tontine Coffee House at its head, on the corner of Wall and Water streets), Old, Coenties, and Whitehall slips on the east, and Albany Basin and Washington Market Slips on the North River, are all now filled in and closed, and the only evidence of their former existence is in the width of the streets immediately at the river front, notably as at Maiden Lane and Wall Street. The construction of bulkheads or piers above Barclay Street on the North River, and Market Street on the East River, was very incomplete at this

time, the primitive shore being yet exposed in many places.

While referring to piers and slips it may not be amiss to add that, although we have a Dock Department and all the variations of dock-builders, dock-houses, dock-men, etc., there is not a dock in or on the island of New York; there are three in Brooklyn, and not to exceed ten in the United States. What are termed docks here are piers and bulkheads, constituting a wharf.

Lispenard's Meadows, originally extending from Duane Street on the south to Broome Street on the north, bounded on the east by Broadway and on the west by the North River, were but partly filled in (see page 16), and Canal Street was then in process of grading, being crossed at Broadway over a bridge of masonry universally known as the "Stone Bridge"; a public-house on Broadway, near Walker Street, being known as the Stone Bridge Hotel. Ex-Mayor Daniel F. Tiemann writes me that he has often skated under this bridge.

As late as 1820 I, in company with an elder relative, occasionally practised pistol-shooting at a target on a fence on the south side in this open and unfrequented street, between Broadway and Mercer Street.

The entire island was reticulated with a number of roads and lanes, notably the Boston Turnpike, beginning at Twenty-third Street and Broadway, running through the present Madison Square Park, and irregularly across Third Avenue at Forty-fifth Street, east to Second Avenue, west to Sixty-sixth Street, and then irregularly up the line of Third Avenue, nearly over to Fourth Avenue, and thence to Harlem Bridge, at Third Avenue and One Hundred and Thirtieth Street. Of roads: the Middle Road, from Boston Turnpike at Twenty-eighth Street and Fourth Avenue at Twenty-ninth Street, and Madison Avenue between Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth streets, then running direct to Fifth Avenue



STONE BRIDGE, BROADWAY AT CANAL STREET

at Forty-second Street. The old Kingsbridge Road, from Eighth Avenue at the termination of Harlem Lane (St. Nicholas Avenue), to road at One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street; Kingsbridge, a continuation of Broadway, or turnpike to Albany and intermediate towns. The Abingdon, or "Love Lane," as it was generally termed, from Eighth Avenue between Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets to Broadway at Twenty-first Street, thence to Twenty-third Street, and to Third Avenue. The Hell Gate, from Boston Turnpike, between Eighty-fourth and Eighty-fifth streets, to Second Avenue and Eighty-sixth Street, thence to Eighty-seventh Street between First and Second avenues, thence to foot of Eighty-sixth Street, at East River. The Skinner (Christopher Street), to Union, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, Eleventh and Twelfth streets. The

Southampton, from Eighth Avenue near Fourteenth Street, northeast to Nineteenth Street, and between Fifth and Sixth avenues, thence northerly to Abingdon Road, north of Twenty-first Street, east of Sixth Avenue. The Fitzroy, from Southampton, commencing at Fourteenth Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, to centre of block between Nineteenth and Twentieth streets, thence across Eighth Avenue between Twenty-second and Twenty-third streets to Thirtieth, thence through Eighth Avenue to between Thirty-first and Thirty-second streets, thence northwesterly to between Forty-first and Forty-second streets, reaching Forty-second Street between Eighth and Ninth avenues. Harlem, from between Third and Lexington avenues and One Hundred and Twentieth and One Hundred and Twenty-first streets, to One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Street and Fourth Avenue, to One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues, thence to St. Nicholas Avenue between One Hundred and Thirty-first and One Hundred and Thirty-second streets. The Old Kill Road (Gansevoort Street). The Lake Tour Road, from Thirty-ninth Street and Bloomingdale Road to Seventh Avenue, thence to Ninth Avenue between Forty-second and Forty-third streets. The Union, from Skinner Road, Eleventh and Twelfth streets and Fifth and Sixth avenues, to the Southampton at Fifteenth Street and Seventh Avenue.

Of lesser roads there were: the Great Kill, running from the intersection of Ninth Avenue and Greenwich Street at the North River, directly across the island to Fitzroy Road between Seventh and Eighth avenues, thence to Sixth Avenue between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets, thence to "Love Lane" between Fifth and Sixth avenues at Twenty-first Street. The Warren, from Southampton to Abingdon Road, or from Sixteenth between Sixth and Seventh avenues to Twenty-first

Street. The Harsen, from Sixth Avenue between Seventieth and Seventy-first streets to Ninth Avenue, thence to Bloomingdale Road (Broadway) at Seventy-first and Seventy-second streets.

Of Lanes there were: the Minetta, Eighth Avenue and Fourteenth Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues to Forty-second Street. The Low, from Boston Turnpike at Forty-first Street to Seventh Avenue at Forty-fourth Street. The Jauncey, from Bloomingdale Road at Ninety-third Street west to Sixth Avenue. The Harlem (St. Nicholas Avenue), from One Hundred and Tenth Street and Sixth Avenue to near One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Street. The Monument (Obelisk Lane), Greenwich Lane from Bowery Road to Minetta Creek, and thence to intersection of Eighth Avenue and Thirteenth Street, where an obelisk was erected to Major-general Wolfe. The Amity, from Broadway to Thompson Street, between Bleecker and West Third streets. The Rhinelander, from Second Avenue between Eighty-sixth and Eighty-seventh streets, to Ninetieth Street between First Avenue and Avenue A. The Feitner, from Broadway between Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth streets, crossing Eighth Avenue at Forty-sixth Street, and Ninth Avenue between Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth streets, thence to Forty-ninth and Fiftieth streets between Tenth and Eleventh avenues. The Hopper, from Fiftieth Street and Sixth to Seventh avenues, to Broadway between Fiftieth and Fifty-first streets, to Twelfth Avenue and Fifty-third Street. The Greenwich, from Eighth Avenue and Great Kill Road, Bowery and Stuyvesant Street. The Rose Hill, from Eighth Avenue between Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets to Broadway, to Twenty-third Street and Third Avenue. The Verdant, from Bloomingdale Road between Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth streets to Tenth Avenue between Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth streets,

thence to Twelfth Avenue; and in addition to these there were many private lanes leading from country residences and farms to the main roads. McGowan's Pass was on the Old Kingsbridge Road east of Sixth Avenue and north of One Hundred and Eighth Street; and Breakneck Hill rose from Kingsbridge Road to the line of Ninth Avenue between One Hundred and Forty-third and Forty-fourth Streets; South Street ended at Dover, and Front at Roosevelt Street. At the foot of Thirty-fifth Street on the North River was a glass furnace, and the prominence of the shore at that point was termed the Glass House Point.

It may be of interest to some to learn why the blocks located by the Commissioners in 1807 above First Street on the east side and Thirteenth Street on the west side are so irregular in their widths, and why the wide streets are so irregularly spaced, as Fourteenth, Twenty-third, etc., some of the blocks varying from 181 feet 9 in. to 211 feet 11 in., and not one being of 200 feet; and inasmuch as the surveyor, Mr. John Randall, Jr., so personally advised me, I am authorized to state it, thus: In running the line of the central avenue he defined certain divisions of the work by his rough or preliminary measurements, and instead of changing these points, as he progressed with his final survey, to the sum of a given number of blocks of 200 feet, streets of 60 feet and one of 100 feet in width, making 10 streets (with one wide one) exactly half a mile, he divided the distance between his assumed or trial points by the number of blocks, streets, avenues, and wide streets, approximating the distance between the points; and as this distance was fractional, and the width of the streets and avenues fixed, the quotient was the width of the blocks between each of the trial points; and as a result of such a proceeding they were fractional.

The iron railing around the Bowling Green was

imported from England in 1771; it is standing at this time (1895).¹

At the time here under mention the principal fronts of the blocks on Broadway, on the west side between Franklin and White streets, and on the east side between White and Walker streets, were in primitive soil, and enclosed with board fences. Many of the older streets still retained names now forgotten. The craze for a change, so familiar to New-Yorkers of modern date in their loss, for example, of Amity, Anthony, Bancker, Chatham, and Robinson streets (to name only the first that come to mind), has swept away ancient designations that they know not of. Thus, in earlier times, South William Street was known as "Dirty Lane"; Cliff, as "Elbow Street"; Nassau, originally as "Pie Woman's Lane"; Beaver, as "Slaughterhouse Lane"; Broad, as "Smell Street"; Elm, as "Republican Alley"; Washington Place, from University Place to Fifth Avenue, as "Shinbone Alley." Hanover Street was Slot Lane; Exchange Place was Garden Street from Hanover to Broad, and thence to Broadway was called "Flat and Barrack Hill," this descent being then a favorite place of boys for "coasting." The narrow passage nearly opposite—from the west side of Broadway to Trinity Place (Church Street)—was colloquially, if not legally, termed "Tin Pot Alley," the title it bears to the present day, though some absurd person of more or less authority has endeavored to effect a change by putting on an adjacent street-lamp the name "Exchange Alley," to denote a passage wherein less exchange takes place than in any other throughout the entire city. We have noted with singular pleasure that when demolition and rebuilding were in progress in this locality that staunch New-Yorker, the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, desiring to make sure the perpetuation of a time-honored name, prepared, at his own care and cost,

a decorated tablet of graceful design, bearing the old name, which was built into the wall of the new structure on the south corner. A tailor's impudent sign has been suffered to cover full one-half of this tablet, and has so far been permitted to defeat Dr. Dix's laudable purpose. It may be hoped that the tailor's sense of his trade interest with old New-Yorkers may induce him to place this sign a little lower.

In the lower part of the city, in Broad Street, there were remaining a number of Dutch-designed and Dutch-built houses, with their gable-ends to the street, and sharply pitched roofs, with stoops at their front doors. As the definition of this word is often asked, I give it thus: *Stoepen*, also *een stoep bancke*, a seat or bank before a house. The aristocratic quarter for residences at this period was Whitehall, Beaver, Broad, Water, and Pearl streets, and the lower part of Broadway. Cherry, Roosevelt, Oak, Madison, Oliver, Harman (East Broadway), and Market streets were occupied by many people



DUTCH HOUSES, BROAD STREET

of position and fortune. Not only the detached clusters of buildings above-named, as Harlem, Yorkville, etc., but also Kip's Bay (see page 27), at Thirty-sixth Street, and Turtle Bay, at Forty-sixth Street, on the east side; with Stryker's Bay, at Ninety-fifth and Ninety-sixth streets, on the west side, were at this date positive and recognized localities. Madison Square was a pasture. Tompkins Square, with the area to east of it, was a swamp. At the intersection of Grand Street and East Broadway (Harman Street) was the hill known as Mount Pitt. Broadway above Tenth Street was a country road. The Collect—that is, the pond that had been bounded by White, Bayard, Elm, Canal, and Pearl streets, which naturally had discharged into the East River through "Wreck Brook," across the region still known as "The Swamp," but had been diverted into the North River through a drain cut on the line of Canal Street, passing under the

Stone Bridge—was but partly filled in.

Many primeval streams and water courses existed upon this island of Manhattan. Most of them have been filled up, and their flow checked and diverted; but though not apparent now, they still exist, and except for the area



TURTLE BAY

covered by buildings and pavements, with the artificial leading-off of rain and snow-water, would appear in their original force. In this year Minetta stream was fully apparent; and as it was and is of considerable volume, it has been a very important and expensive

factor in the construction of foundations along its line, from its main source, near the site of the Union Club, to its discharge in the North River. Its other branch had its source at Sixth Avenue and Sixteenth Street, the two joining between Eleventh and Twelfth streets and Fifth and Sixth avenues; its course thence being irregular to Minetta Lane and Bleecker Street, thence direct to Hudson Street at King Street; then bifurcating and joining at Greenwich Street, thence to the river by Charlton Street.

Sunfish and Stuyvesant's ponds were in their original outlines, the former bounded by Thirty-first and Thirty-third streets and Madison and Lexington avenues, fed by a stream rising between Sixth and Seventh avenues at Forty-fourth Street, and flowing into the East River between Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth streets; the latter lying between Second Avenue, Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets and the East River, with Stuyvesant's Swamp adjacent, an extensive area of low alluvial land receiving water from several tributary streams. Stuyvesant's Meadows was the basin of a stream rising between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets at Second Avenue, running irregularly to Nineteenth Street and First Avenue, and discharging into the East River between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets. In winter the greater portion of them was covered with water, and, forming a large pond, was a favorite resort for skating, as was Sunfish Pond also. The glue-factory of Peter Cooper adjoined Sunfish Pond, he having previously occupied the triangular plot formed by the intersection of Third and Fourth avenues as a store. At Seventeenth Street and the East River was an indentation of the shore, into which emptied a stream rising west of Madison Square, and flowing north of Gramercy Park. Sawmill Creek rose between Forty-ninth and Fiftieth streets, west of Sixth Avenue, and ran north to Fifty-ninth Street, turn-

ing then southwest of the East River at Forty-sixth Street. Above this were several streams on both sides of the island, notably the Harlem Creek, rising in the vicinity of One Hundred and Twenty-third Street and Tenth Avenue, and flowing directly to Fifth Avenue at One Hundred and Sixteenth Street, thence to One Hundred and Sixth Street, thence to East River, between One Hundred and Seventh and One Hundred and Eighth streets. Canal Street: when this great thoroughfare



LISPENARD'S MEADOWS

was filled in, it became necessary to continue the original stream or water course through it in a sewer, which led from Centre Street to the river; and whenever it became necessary to clean its bottom, prisoners from Bellevue were employed, the vicious being restricted by an iron ball and chain secured to one or both of their legs.

Lispenard's Meadows, as well as the site of Tompkins Square, were good snipe grounds; while the various suitable places above them, notably the site of Central Park and the low ground between it and the East River, furnished ample extent for an entire day's shooting; and Twenty-sixth to Thirtieth, Thirty-ninth to Forty-third,

Sixty-fourth to Sixty-sixth, Seventy-ninth to Eighty-fifth, and Ninety-sixth streets, on the west side, of which I was cognizant, were good for both woodcock and snipe. I have shot woodcock in West Twenty-first Street and Tenth Avenue, and rabbits between Cato's Road and Third Avenue; while Fourteenth Street was generally the limit of my shooting-grounds on Saturday holidays.

What is now known as Brooklyn Heights was at this time a high and precipitous sand-hill, with a stairway leading to its summit, on which were three houses, one a hotel, one a boarding-house, and one the residence of a Mr. Gibbs, who brought from his former residence in North Carolina a cutting of a grape-vine, which he planted in the grounds of his new residence and named Isabella, after his daughter of that name; and hence the "Isabella grape" of the subsequent and present time. Still Hook and Pierrepont's windmill were opposite to Governor's Island, near to Atlantic Street.

Red Hook was a promontory on the Brooklyn shore at Van Dyne Street, and Yellow Hook, on which was a powder-house on the same shore, was at the southern point of Gowanus Bay, all of which, alike to Turtle and Kip's bays on the East and Stryker's Bay on the North River, have been obliterated by the extension of the river fronts.

Gowanus Bay was very shallow and prolific with clams. At low water men were seen "treading" for them; hence the well-known truism, "One should never go clamming at high water."

The North River above Barclay Street was not fully bulk-headed, and on it but eight piers existed; the point of Corlear's Hook, East River, was an open shore, resorted to by the Baptists for practice of the rite of immersion, and all above North (Houston) Street was a primitive shore. The Battery, *sed quantum mutatus ab illo*, was the sea breathing-spot, and, in proportion to the

number of citizens, it was much more frequented than Central Park is at the present period of 1895. It was bounded seaward by a rip-rap wall between it and Fort Clinton, now Castle Garden, and very far inside of the present extension. A bridge about two hundred feet in length connected the shore and the fort. The area of the Battery was extended and walled in at a later period (about 1823), and again extended and walled in in 1856. It was the afternoon resort of children, and in summer the evening resort and promenade of citizens. Ladies could visit it with impunity, even when unaccompanied by a gentleman. Castle Garden has an interesting history; erected in 1814, and first named Fort Clinton, the result of a mass-meeting held in the City Hall to consider the best means of fortifying the city should the war with England extend northward. During its construction a patriotic dame of high social position trundled a wheelbarrowful of earth from Trinity Churchyard down Broadway to the fort. When the property was ceded back to the city by the Federal Government in 1822, in consequence of the removal of military headquarters to Governor's Island, it was determined to convert Fort Clinton (or Castle Clinton) into a place of public amusement, and as such, under the now familiar name of Castle Garden, it long fulfilled its purpose admirably, and is well remembered as the home of the opera and the scene of Jenny Lind's extraordinary triumphs. Philip Hone's *Diary* describes it as "the most splendid and largest theatre I ever saw—a place capable of seating comfortably six or eight thousand persons. The pit or area of the pavilion is provided with some hundred small, white tables and movable chairs, by which people are enabled to congregate into little squads, and take their ices between the acts. In front of the stage is a beautiful fountain, which plays when the performers do not. The whole of this large area is surmounted by circular



BATTERY, 1822

benches above and below, from every point of which the view is enchanting." But in spite of the charms set forth in this glowing account, the drift of society uptown made Castle Garden impracticable as a place of evening amusement after a while. It fell into sordid uses as a lodging-place for arriving immigrants, and so continued for a long space. Now, after a long and needful process of cleansing, does it return to its function of amusement—fitly and conveniently chosen, as it is, for the location of the Public Aquarium.

On the east side of Greenwich Street, near the Battery, was the Atlantic Garden, a well-conducted and popular resort of the time

(see p. 60). In

line with the foot of Hubert Street,

a water-fort stood

some two hundred

feet out in the

river, approached

by a bridge, which,

like the Battery,

was a favorite re-

sort for the dwellers of the vicinity on summer evenings.

This fort, built of freestone, was known as the "Red

Fort," while one at the foot of Gansevoort Street, being whitewashed, was called the "White Fort."



RED FORT, FOOT OF HUBERT STREET

The Spingler estate, on Broadway, from Fourteenth to Sixteenth Street, to below Union Square, was at this time a market-garden. Originally it consisted of twenty-two acres, and was purchased by Henry Spingler in 1788 for less than five thousand dollars. The Murray House, from which Murray Hill gains its title, and which remained standing until it was burned in 1834, was on a farm between the Bloomingdale Road (Broadway) and the Boston Post Road, and running down to Kip's Bay

(East Thirty-third and Thirty-seventh streets). The Beekman House, which stood till twenty years ago on Fifty-first Street near Second Avenue, was built in 1763 by a descendant of William Beekman, who came from Holland with Petrus Stuyvesant in 1647. Headquarters of Sir William Howe and General Charles Clinton during the war of the Revolution, it witnessed many scenes of historic interest. It was in this house that Major André stayed the night before he proceeded on his fatal adventure; and, by a striking coincidence, it was here that Nathan Hale had been brought for examination after his capture, and here received (tradition says in the greenhouse) such trial or hearing as was allowed him. We may wonder if the thought of Hale visited André on his last night of peaceful rest in this place, haunted by memories of his prototype. The pulling down of the Beekman House in 1874 was observed with keen regret. One of its fire-places was presented by Mr. James W. Beekman to the New York Historical Society, in whose keeping it may be seen. On Broadway, on the Grand Boulevard, bounded on the north by Jauncey Lane (Ninety-first and Ninety-second streets), was the Apthorpe Mansion of an earlier period, and later the residence of Colonel Thorne, formerly a purser in the Navy, who married Miss Jauncey; the boundaries of this property included many acres (see p. 258). The place, for years before its disappearance in 1892, was occupied for the entertainment of target-excursions, as a beer-garden, etc., known as Elm Park. On Cherry Street, between Clinton and Jefferson streets, was the home of Colonel Rutgers, which, after his death, was remodelled by his nephew, the late Wm. B. Crosby. Colonel Marinus Willett resided upon his farm, extending from Broome to Delancey Street, and from Lewis Street to the river. On Water Street, between Walnut (Jackson) and Scammel streets, was the residence of Christian Bergh, the father of the



BREKMAN HOUSE, RESIDENCE OF SIR WILLIAM HOWE, 476. FIFTIETH STREET, NEAR FIRST AVENUE



BRIDEWELL, WEST SIDE CITY HALL, 1816

late Henry Bergh; and between the street and the river was his extensive ship-yard—established in this year.

West of Broadway, between Eleventh and Twelfth avenues, at One Hundred and Twenty-third Street, there was a large country residence occupied by an Englishman, a Mr. Courtney, who, with but one man-servant and a cook, lived so retired as never to be seen in company with any one outside of his household, and very rarely in public. There were, as a consequence, many opinions given as to the occasion of such exclusiveness. The one generally and finally accepted was that he had been a gay companion of royalty in his youth, and that his leaving England was more the result of expediency with him than choice. The house subsequently was known as "The Claremont" (see p. 377).

The State's Prison building and ground occupied about four acres in Washington, bounded by Christopher, Perry, and West streets, surrounded by a high stone wall

guarded by sentries. An extensive brewery now occupies the site of this building (see p. 226). The City Prison, or Bridewell, stood on Broadway in line with the present City Hall (see p. 25), and the Jail, or Debtors' Prison, alike in line with it at its opposite end, where it still stands, converted into the Hall of Records, the veritable



HALL OF RECORDS, OR OLD JAIL

though altered structure of the old jail changed into a really beautiful form, though now bearing an unsightly wooden top. Between those buildings, where now is the new Court House, was the Almshouse on Chambers Street.

March 1 Hudson Street extended from Gansevoort Street to Ninth Avenue.

In May the Penitentiary adjoining the new Almshouse at Bellevue was first occupied, and the convicts therein were employed in the opening and improvement of contiguous roads and streets.

Dr. McLeod proceeded to Washington, organized the American Colonization Society, and wrote its Constitution.

The markets were the Fly (Vlie or Vly, an abbreviation of valley), located at the foot of Maiden Lane, which was this year ordered to be removed (see p. 141); the Washington, at foot of Vesey and Fulton streets, on the site of the Bear (1814), by which name the Washington was known for many years; the Catharine, at foot of the street of that name; the Old Slip, at foot of William Street, afterwards the Franklin; the Duane, at foot of the street so named; the Collect, on the south side of White Street, near Broadway and Cortlandt Alley (removed in 1818); the Greenwich, foot of Christopher Street; and the Gouverneur, foot of that street, erected at the individual cost of Christian Bergh, the ship-builder in Water Street; and one at the foot of Grand Street.

The Grand Market Place, which embraced Tompkins Square, bounded on the north by Tenth Street, south by Seventh Street, east by the river, and west by Avenue A, was laid out in 1807 by three commissioners, Gouverneur Morris, Simon De Witt, and John Rutherford, but subsequently was abolished by an Act of the Legislature.



KIP'S HOUSE

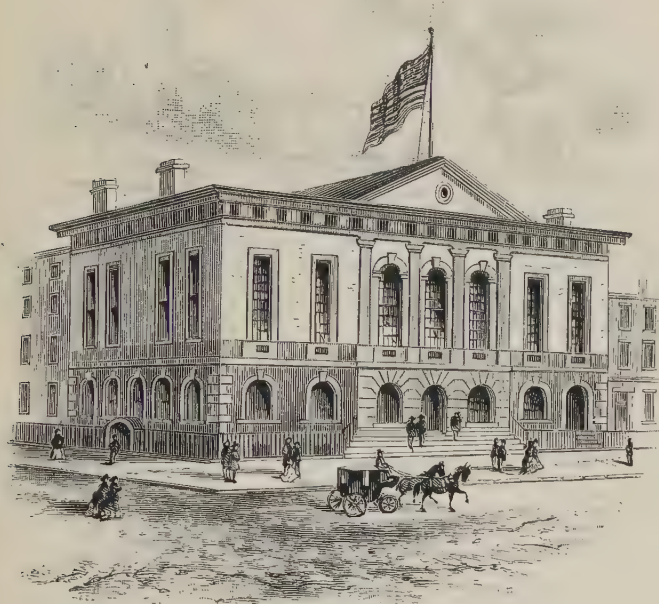
CHAPTER II

1816, *Continued*—JACOB RADCLIFFE, MAYOR

OF hotels there were at this period the City Hotel, opened in 1805 by John Lovett on the site of the present Boreel Building in Broadway; the Franklin House, corner of Broadway and Dey Street; the Park Place Hotel, corner of Broadway and Park Place; Congress Hall, Broadway near John Street; Washington Hall, on the site of the Stewart Building; the Northern Hotel, foot of Cortlandt Street; the Bull's Head, on site of the Bowery, now the Thalia Theatre; the Steamboat Hotel, Beekman Street, and Hankin's steamboat bar-room at foot of Catharine Street. On the east side of Broadway, between Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets, there was an old and well-known hostelry, known as the Buck's Horn; which name was conspicuously painted under a representation of a buck's head and horns, elevated on a post which was set in a line with the present curb, the dwelling being set back for many feet, on ground rising fully ten feet above the present grade of Broadway (see p. 247). This scant array of hotels in New York, at a time within the memory of living men, may almost more sharply than any thing else reveal to the New-Yorkers of to-day the difference between the town then and now, when it is so filled with these houses that even an expert, taking time and pains, will scarcely succeed in numbering the hotels even of the higher grade—many of them veritable palaces.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons, originally the King's College, built in 1767, and located in Barclay

Street, near Broadway, was the only institution of the kind. The New York Hospital stood in the centre of the block included by Broadway, Church, Anthony, and Duane streets. In front a lawn extended to Broadway,



WASHINGTON HALL

and thereupon various societies, as the Firemen's, were permitted to assemble on occasion of annual parades, etc.

The Tontine Building, known as The Coffee House, at the corner of Wall and Water streets, was then comparatively new, having been erected in 1794 by an Association of a number of merchants and founded for the purpose of providing an Exchange, as such assemblages are termed, for the daily meeting and interchange of views, purchases, sales, etc. The fund for its construc-

tion was raised by life annuities; the whole to revert to the survivor, on what is known as the Tontine plan. In this case the plan provided for distribution of the property among seven survivors of a company of two hundred and three persons named by the original subscribers, one person for each share. In 1876 the division was made, the seven surviving nominees being William Bayard, Gouverneur Kemble, Robert Benson, Jr., Daniel Hoffman, Horatio G. Stevens, Mrs. John A. King, and Mrs. William P. Campbell (see illustration, p. 48).

In the strait known and termed as the East River, though it is in nowise a river, there was off Hallett's Point, in Hell Gate, a sunken rock of a peculiar form, which gave rise to a whirlpool known as The Pot, which at half flows of the tide was of an area and volume to render navigation in small vessels hazardous. Modern engineering has divested this strait of its terrors. Blackwell's Island was at this time still in private hands. More than two centuries ago it was owned and occupied by John Manning, an ex-sheriff of New York, who was in command of the city and surrendered it to the Dutch on their attack in 1673; for which feat he was promptly cashiered by the English when they had renewed their possession. Manning left the island to his daughter, the wife of Robert Blackwell. The City bought it in 1828 for fifty thousand dollars. The islands now called Ward's and Randall's were then known as Great and Little Barn Islands, "Barn" being apparently a corruption of Barent, an earlier name. Even "Randall's" seems an incorrect title, since the city bought this property in 1835 (also for fifty thousand dollars) from the executors of Jonathan Randall, who had given twenty-four pounds for it about seventy years earlier. This island, then held by British troops, was the scene of a sharp action in September, 1776, when the assaulting column of Americans suffered a repulse with the loss of twenty-two killed, and failed to gain the



THE ROTUNDA

British ammunition and stores which were the cause of the attempted surprise. Coney Island was known only as a favorable though remote place for sea-bathing, with abundant clams in its creek.

The Post-office at this date was at the corner of Garden (Exchange Place) and William streets, on the first floor of a three-story house, in a single room forty feet in length, above which resided the Postmaster, Theodorus Bailey. The entire Southern Mail, enclosed in two bags, was transported from Paulus Hook (Jersey City) in a row-boat. One of the basement rooms of the City Hall, a house in Eldridge Street, and one in Christopher Street, were occupied by the city watchmen, a small band of Argus-eyed guardians of the peace, who were mustered at 6.30 P. M. in the winter and 9 in summer, and left for their homes soon after daylight. For day service there were a High Constable (Jacob Hays) and but twelve police

officers; office, No. 1, Basement of City Hall. The courts were all held in the City Hall. Between the area of the park, fronting on Chambers Street, and on the site of the present building of the Court of Sessions, was a circular building known as The Rotunda, which was used for the setting and exhibition of large paintings, statuary, etc., erected by subscription at the instance of John Vanderlyn, an artist; the Corporation having granted the ground free for a period of ten years, with the condition that the building was to become the property of the city at the termination of the grant. In it, panoramic views of the Battle of Waterloo, the Palace and Garden of Versailles, the City of Mexico, and others were exhibited. This building was occupied as a Post-office after the great fire in 1835, and subsequently by the Croton Aqueduct Department.

The salary of the Chancellor of the State and the Judges of the Superior Courts was but two thousand dollars, and that of the Circuit Judges twelve hundred and fifty dollars. The Court of Sessions was presided over by the Recorder and two Aldermen; the Recorder, who sat as a member of the Board of Aldermen, over which the Mayor presided, was Richard Riker (famous as "Dicky" Riker). In case of fires, the watchmen in their vicinity gave the alarm to members of the Common Council, who attended the fire, bearing wands as insignia of their authority.

The public officers at this period, and for many years afterward, were, as a class, and with some very notable exceptions, of a different stamp from those of a much later and the present day. The Mayor was elected by the Board of Aldermen; Judges, Sheriffs, Coroners, and Recorders were appointed by the Governor of the State; primary elections were unknown, and meetings composed of business men and tax-paying citizens, for the nomination of State and City officers, were usually held in the public hall or parlors of some of the principal hotels.

Notably, a convention for the nomination of a candidate for Alderman of the Fifth Ward, in this year, was called



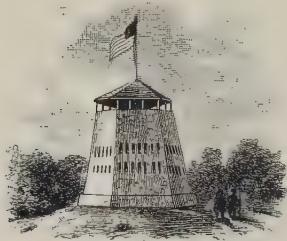
SECOND TAMMANY HALL

under the signatures of the leading citizens of the ward, and the place of meeting was the Washington Hall (Broadway, between Chambers and Reade streets—see p. 29), which would correspond to the Windsor or Mur-

ray Hill Hotel at this time. Candidates for an elective office did not then expend in the canvass twice, or, as in some cases of a later date, ten times the amount of pay attached to the office sought for. Candidates also did not seek support by the organization of and tribute to target companies, associations, balls, *pique niques*, etc.; to have done so would have ensured their decided defeat. Inspectors of election were appointed by the Common Council. The ale-house at Frankfort Street near the old site of Tammany Hall (the present *Sun* newspaper office), known as the "Pewter Mug," kept by Mrs. Lynch up to 1847-48, when it was leased by Thomas Dunlap, was for many years before and after this period the resort of the leading Democratic politicians of the time; and it was here that the claims of their candidates were discussed and decided upon.

The fences around the Park and Battery were wooden pickets; flagged stone street crossings were unknown,

and sidewalks were ordinarily paved with bricks. Snow remained upon the streets until removed by a melting change of temperature, and as there was a total absence of street-car rails, carts and wheeled vehicles were replaced by sleds and sleighs, even to carriage- and hack-bodies being set upon runners, as is still the case in Boston,



TOWER AT HALLETT'S POINT

for example, when they were termed booby hacks; the sleighing was thus maintained in good condition, and often it continued for weeks. The front walls of houses, and even of public buildings, were constructed wholly of brick with freestone or bluestone trimmings, and it was not until many years afterward that even

marble trimmings were introduced, and not until some time in the thirties that freestone was adopted for the fronts. In a very large majority of cases, merchants, shop-keepers, lawyers, etc., resided over their stores or offices. Venders of oysters, clams, fish, buns, yeast, hot spiced gingerbread, tea-rusk, and hot corn, yelled their wares through the streets. The "clam man," with a cart drawn by a blind, lame, or venerable derelict from the Horse Market, regaled one with his,

" Here's clams, here's clams, here's clams to-day,
They lately came from Rockaway ;
They're good to roast, they're good to fry,
They're good to make a clam pot-pie.
Here they go ! "

The baker's boy, in the afternoon, took a basket with fresh-baked tea rusk, and cried, "Tea ruk, ruk, ruk, tea ruk"; and the negro woman, in the summer and fall of the year, with a simple bandanna kerchief on her head, toted a pail, and shouted, "Hot corn, hot corn, here's your lily white hot corn; hot corn, all hot; just come out of the boiling pot!" And then another of a like type, also toted and shouted, "Baked pears, baked pears, fresh baked, baked pears!"

Roller skating was not known here until 1838, when the Ravels introduced it in their "Patineurs," and so novel was it that it caused much comment as to how it could be effected.

Chimney-sweeps, rendered necessary by the general use of wood or bituminous coal, saluted the early morning with "Sweep O ! Sweep O !"

The City Directory for the year contained but 19,939 names.

The water supply at this period and for many years afterward, until introduction of the Croton, was largely derived from wooden pumps set commonly at street

corners, at intervals of about four blocks. In Chatham Street, at the corner of Roosevelt, stood the celebrated Tea Water Pump, of which it was alleged by the housekeepers who drew from it, that it made better tea than any other water; it was supplied by a spring from the hill of sand leading up to the junction of Harman Street (East Broadway) and the Bowery. Near Bethune, (West Fourth Street), also was a spring of exceptionally pure water, owned by a Mr. Knapp, who distributed its product from carts at two cents per pail. Further supply was obtained from the Manhattan Company (familiar now only as the Manhattan Bank).

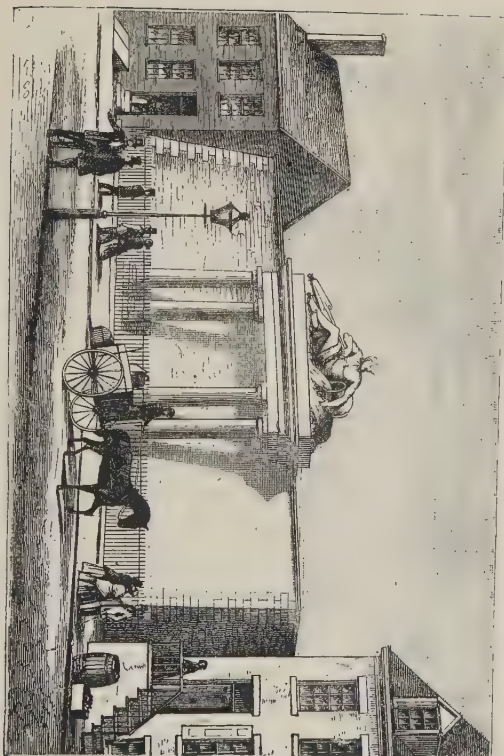
The water furnished by this company was raised from a well in Reade, near Centre Street, by a sun and planet wheel steam-engine, constructed in England, and thence was driven into a reservoir on Chambers Street, and distributed in some streets through log pipes. In the yards of all houses and stores cisterns were placed to receive the rear water from



STREET PUMP

the rain roofs (roofs were pitched in those times), and from them water was drawn by a bucket and pole for laundry purposes and by the suction hose of fire-engines.

The facilities for local travel in that year will appear to readers of the present time even more restricted than



THE MANHATTAN RESERVOIR, CHAMBERS STREET

were the boundaries of New York. Thus, within the city proper one had to go on foot or take a "hack." The public passenger conveyance to Harlem was by a stage leaving Harlem, at One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street and Third Avenue, early in the morning, arriving in Park Row and leaving there in the afternoon. Fare, twenty-five cents. The Greenwich neighborhood was served by Asa Hall, who had a stable in Hudson Street, corner of Charles Street, and ran a stage, five round trips per day, to the southwest corner of Pine and Nassau Streets, leaving Greenwich at the even hour and returning at the odd. Fare, twenty-five cents. But seven regular ferries were in operation, employing among them but two boats that were propelled by steam, one to Brooklyn and one to Paulus Hook (Jersey City); all others were horse-boats or sail-boats. The ferries were the Fulton, to Brooklyn, and the Cortlandt Street, to Jersey City, each having one double (or a twin) steamboat, and Fulton Ferry a horse-boat and two sail-boats besides; the Catherine Street, also to Brooklyn, and the Grand Street, to Williamsburg, had each two horse-boats; the Staten Island, the Hoboken, and the Bull's Ferry, from foot of Vesey Street, to Bull's Ferry, New Jersey, were operated by means of periaguas (small decked vessels with two masts and boom sails), termed "perry-augers," and, with the exceptions of the Brooklyn and Paulus Hook ferries, at places after the hours in the evening for the running of the boats, these periaguas were resorted to. They have wholly disappeared. The fare for a passage on the ferry-boats to Brooklyn was four cents; on those to Hoboken, twelve and a half cents. The boat to Paulus Hook was unable to make the trip in presence of a severe wind from the northwest. In winter, the floating ice from the Hudson River above would be blown by the northwest winds against the piers on the North River side of the city and, freezing firm, would so completely arrest the

requirements of navigation that it was quite customary for sea-going vessels in the winter season to remove to the East River to avoid this embargo, and the Paulus Hook, and even the Hoboken, ferry-boats would frequently be compelled to land and receive passengers at Whitehall, that is, at the foot of Broadway.

Regarding the blockading of the river fronts and piers at this point and for many years afterward, it is to be borne in mind that there were less than ten steamboats in service, even in the summer, and not five in the winter. The transportation of the harbor, in consequence of the total absence of steam tow-boats, or tugs, as they are now termed, was actual navigation. Thus, vessels sailed up to their wharves or piers, and when leaving, if the wind was adverse, a kedge was carried out to windward and the vessel warped out to it, from whence sail was set, and as a consequence the floating ice was not broken up as it was at a later period, and is at the present time, by the constant passage of steamers, steamboats, and tugs. The blockades of ice in severe weather would extend over half the way across the North River, furnishing skating for men and boys, while the open water bordering it would be studded with wild-fowl, some of which—the divers—after the ice had disappeared would remain late, and come close to the Battery walls, so that boys amused themselves with throwing stones at them. In January of this year, in consequence of the continued prevalence of extreme cold, and the closing of the rivers and bays, firewood became so scarce that hickory sold at twenty-three dollars per cord, and oak at ten dollars.

Travelling to other places was a serious undertaking, compared with the ease and comfort of modern methods. It was exclusively by stage, excepting to points which could be reached by water in the season when navigation was open. Stage offices existed in different parts of the



STATEN ISLAND FERRY AND UNITED STATES BARGE OFFICE, 1830

city—as the Philadelphia, Eastern, Albany, Paterson, Monmouth, Elizabethtown, Newark, etc.—for arrival and departure, at stated hours, of stages bearing passengers and mails. At such hours there were scenes of bustle and activity. Hence to Boston was accomplished by a steamboat, the *Fulton*, from the foot of Fulton Street, East River, leaving at 5 A. M., reaching New Haven at 7 P. M., whence passengers and mails were transferred to the *Connecticut*, reaching New London very early in the following morning, and thence by stage *via* Providence; time thirty-eight hours. Returning, the time was lengthened, as there were two nights upon the route, one at New London and one from New Haven to New York; time fifty-two hours. Boston by mail-coaches *via* New Haven and Hartford thirty-eight hours, and to Philadelphia in winter the route was by steamboat and stage six times per week, leaving New York at 7.30 A. M. and arriving in Philadelphia at 11 A. M. the following day; and in the summer *via* steamboat to New Brunswick and steamboat from Bordentown, a trip of fifteen hours. To reach Washington, advertised as “expeditious travelling,” in a stage seating six persons, three days’ time was expended. To Albany in the winter, two days and one night were very painfully disposed of for a fare of eight dollars, while in the summer the Albany boat, running three times per week, on one fortuitous occasion accomplished the distance in $19\frac{1}{2}$ hours, for which feat the performer of this oft-told triumph, the *Chancellor Livingston*, enjoyed the then enviable reputation of “the skimmer of the river.” To Albany by sloop was a common method, though most uncertain in point of time; one of my old acquaintances well remembered that in 1802 he was nine days going from New York to Albany in a sloop. There were no less than twenty-six vessels plying to Albany at this date, and two hundred and six in regular service on the Hudson, to the different towns on its banks.

This year a New York and Liverpool line of packets was first established—the Black Ball, Isaac Wright & Son, Benjamin Marshall, Jeremiah and Francis Thompson; and afterward Chas. H. Marshall & Goodhue & Co.; sailing on the 1st of each month, and in six months after, on the 16th also; four hundred to five hundred tons' burthen; average time up to 1825, outer passage twenty-three days, inner forty days. European travel, however, was almost wholly confined to purposes of business, and even this was of rare occurrence. The arrival of a vessel in this year is heralded as bringing news "forty days later from Europe." Prior to the organization of a line of vessels from this port to Europe, the mail service was performed by British packets of less than two hundred tons, hence to Falmouth *via* Halifax and Quebec, sailing on the first Wednesday in each month. In the winter season the service from Halifax to Quebec was suspended.

The Eastern mail to Boston, three times weekly *via* New London and three times *via* Hartford, Springfield, and Worcester, left at 6 A. M., and arrived at the same hour of the third day. The Southern mail to Philadelphia left at 12.30 P. M., and arrived at 6 A. M. The postage of a single letter, which was required to be on a single sheet, hence to Philadelphia, was 12½ cents; to Albany, Boston, and Washington, 18¾ cents, and to any place, however short the distance, as hence to Harlem, 6¼ cents. In determining the rate it was doubled, tripled, etc., for every additional piece of detached paper. Envelopes, except for Government documents, were unknown. Foreign postal arrangements were very different from those of this time. Instead of depositing letters in the Post-office, letter-bags in general were furnished by the agents or consigners of vessels and kept at their offices, and in these the letters were deposited; but the bags for the European vessels were kept in the Tontine Coffee House (Merchants' Exchange)



DEPARTURE OF LIVERPOOL PACKETS

where subscribers to the Exchange, or members thereof, had the privilege of depositing their letters, but non-subscribers were charged twenty-five cents per letter. The name of a vessel arriving off the port was known by distinguishing letters painted on her foretopsail, which were observed from a lookout station at the Narrows, and indicated to the observer at the Battery, in clear weather, by the operation of the ancient telegraph.

The daily morning and evening papers were the *New York Gazette*, established in 1725 as a weekly and in 1809 as a daily, at 116 Pearl Street, by Lang & Turner, now in Hanover Square; *Mercantile Advertiser*, by Butler & Heyer, in 1807, at 159 Pearl Street, and in this year at 83 Pine Street; *The Advocate*, by M. M. Noah, in 1813 at 73 Pine Street; *New York Evening Post*, established November 16, 1801, by William Coleman, 106 and 108 Pine Street, then by Michael Burnham, a printer at 42 Pine Street; *New York Courier*, established the year previous at 87 Pearl Street; *Commercial Advertiser*, first published in 1793 by Noah Webster, and known as *The Spectator*, then changed as above; the weekly edition being termed *The New York Spectator*, in 1805-06, at 69 Pine Street, and in this year at 60 Wall Street, by William L. Stone, and later, 1820, with Francis Hall. Sunday editions of a newspaper were unknown, and all papers were delivered by the publishers at the offices or dwellings of the subscribers. Advertising at this period, and for fully fifty years after, was practised on a very different basis from that of the present time. Merchants, packet agents, etc., then advertised by the year for forty dollars, and they could have as many advertisements as they thought proper. They did not occupy the space that is required by many at this time, as they did not resort to *ad captandum* and "displayed" headings and matter. Printing was executed by hand, the form, instead of being

inked by a roller as was later practised, was inked by a boy wielding a pad and a ball, who was known as the printer's devil. The contrast between the newspapers of that time and of the present—not always and altogether in favor of the modern production—is perhaps as great



TONTINE COFFEE HOUSE

as any contrast of the two periods that can be pointed out.

In the absence of sewer discharge into the slips on our river front, the water was so clear that fish were readily taken in the river, and porgies so plentiful that they were hawked about the streets for one cent apiece; the average price at this time (1894) being twelve cents per pound. Off the bridge to Castle Garden, afterward (1823) removed and the entire space between the fort and the shore filled in, there was excellent fishing for striped bass, weakfish, drum, etc., in their seasons. The

house of Peter G. Stuyvesant was remotely out of the town, being east of the First Avenue and between Eighth and Ninth streets, and that of Nicholas W. Stuyvesant was between Thirteenth and Sixteenth streets and Avenue A and First Avenue. (See pp. 76 and 318.)

The banks of deposit and discount at this period were the Bank of New York, 1784, No. 125 Pearl Street, 1798, No. 32 Wall, corner William Street, its present location; Manhattan, 1800, 23 Wall Street; Bank of America, 1812, corner of Wall and William streets; City, 1812, 38 Wall Street; America, 1814, 17 Wall Street; Merchants', 25, Mechanics', 16, Phoenix (N. Y. Manufacturing Co.) at 24, Union at 17, and Exchange, 29 Wall Street and Branch Bank of the United States at 65 Broadway; and fourteen Insurance Companies—Fire and Marine.

The numbers of Wall Street differed from those of the present time.

The combined number of Roman Catholics in the States of New York and New Jersey was estimated at thirteen thousand; this would give not to exceed four thousand for the city of New York.



KING'S BRIDGE

CHAPTER III

1816, *Continued*—JACOB RADCLIFFE, MAYOR

BUT one theatre was open in the city, the Park, built in 1798, standing at 23 Park Row, and running back to Theatre Alley, which extends from Ann to Beekman Street. There was one smaller in Anthony Street, near Broadway, which had been opened in 1814, but now was unoccupied, and later was the site of Christ Church. Concerning further means of amusement, it may be noted here that at this date bull- and bear-baiting was practised as neither unlawful nor improper. The first theatre in New York was opened in 1750 in Kip (Nassau) Street, between John Street and Maiden Lane. In 1761 a theatre was built on the lower side of Beekman Street, near Nassau, in which during that year "Hamlet" was presented for the first time in America. This house was wrecked during a riot over the Stamp Act in 1765. In 1767 the John Street Theatre, on the north side near Broadway, was opened; in 1776 the Montague Garden on Broadway, between Chambers and Barclay streets; and in 1785 two new theatres were opened, one in William Street and one in lower Greenwich Street; doors open at 5.15, and curtain raised at 6 P. M.

At the Park the hour of opening was half-past six, the performance beginning at half-past seven. It was universally the custom to give two pieces of performance, generally a tragedy and a comedy; and sometimes three pieces were given, and between the pieces a comic song, a *pas seul* or *pas de deux* by *danseuses*. The pit, now termed *parquet*, was provided with board benches

without cushions, and occupied exclusively by men and boys; the boxes were enclosed in the rear, the entrance to them through a locked door jealously guarded by a keeper. There was an advantage in this which fully compensated any inconvenience attendant upon it, inasmuch as the rear wall of the box reflected sounds from the stage; from which cause, added to the circumstance that the interiors of the buildings were less ornate than at a later day, the voices on the stage were much more audible than with the open seats. This arrangement left a wide space for lobby or *foyer*, in which it was customary for the male portion of the audience during the acts to promenade. In the second tier there was a moderate restaurant, and in the third tier a bar. In this theatre there was a very perfect whispering gallery; the peculiar face and arching of the proscenium enabled a sound delivered on one side in the third tier to be distinctly audible on the opposite side. Upon this becoming known it was availed of by humorists, to the dismay and annoyance of many who were ignorant of it. In the third tier of theatres before this time, and for many years after, the class of females erroneously termed *demi-monde* were permitted to be present, and on several occasions parties who had better have been absent, being seated in the end-box, and near the arch, were dismayed at hearing a voice near to them advising them to go home and attend to their families, etc. Prior to the closing of the theatre for the summer recess, it was the custom to set apart one night's performance, known as "ticket night," for the benefit of the employés of the house.

Not a few citizens yet living find pleasure in reviving in their conversation the glories of "the old Park." No doubt its scenery and appointments were primitive, compared with the elaborate provision made for modern theatres, as a result of the singular development of scenic art which has appeared in recent years. Excepting

only its spacious stage—forty by seventy feet—the Park lacked nearly everything in the way of physical appliances that are considered necessary in our theatres; but it is probably within reason to maintain that in the quality of its acting and of its audiences it remains unapproached, and that no theatre of the present period holds the primacy, or even supremacy, which it enjoyed without challenge. Even the present generation will understand this supremacy of a stage that witnessed—to select only a few names from the stock company, and stars that shone at intervals—the performances of Mrs. Wheatly, Mrs. Vernon (for many years afterward at Wallack's, and still “freshly remembered”), Mrs. Sefton, Miss Ellen Tree, Miss Fanny Kemble, Miss Charlotte Cushman, Miss Emma Wheatly (Mrs. Mason), Miss Clara Fisher (Mrs. Maedèr), Edmund and Charles Kean, Charles Kemble, Junius Brutus Booth, Edwin Forrest, James Wallack (father of John Lester Wallack), Harry and Tom Placide, George Vandenhoff, William Wheatly, Tyrone Power, Cooke, Young, and Cooper. Mrs. Wheatly, so long and so well known to this theatre, daughter of an officer in the British Army, accomplished actress and universal favorite both on and off the stage, made her first appearance at the Park in 1805. She retired soon after, but reappeared in 1815, and continued her public career until 1848.

Kinlock Stuart, residing at 40 Barclay Street in 1800, and for some years thereafter, failed in his business, and in 1807 his wife began, in a very humble way, the manufacture of candies, preserves, etc., at 271 Greenwich Street, the partial site of the present buildings that composed the sugar refinery of the late R. L. & A. Stuart. Her business, from the purity of her manufactures, had so increased in 1831 that it was assumed by her sons, who soon after enjoyed a world-wide reputation and amassed great fortunes. Alex. Stuart continued residence in

his house in Chambers Street until his death, and was the last downtown resident of substance and position.

Francis Guerin had opened in 1815, at 120 Broadway, a shop for confectionery, supplemented by coffee, chocolate, pastry, *liqueurs*, etc.; and, subsequently extending his premises to an adjoining room, he furnished and provided it for the convenience of ladies' luncheon. American ladies, however, in view of the early dinner-hour of the period and the vicinity of their residences to the scene of their shopping or promenading, had not yet felt the need of such a convenience. As the area of houses extended farther uptown, and the dinner-hour became later, the need of such a resort caused it to be so well patronized that the proprietor was rewarded with a very handsome competency; he was the pioneer in this line of catering to the public in New York. Restaurants, other than in a room or cellar, and principally on the river fronts, where few and coarse victuals were served, were unknown.

The popular and the largest dry goods stores were those of Jotham Smith, 223 Broadway (all on one floor), on part of the site of the present Astor House (it was but one story in height); King & Mead, at 175, and Vandervoort & Flandin, at 111 Broadway.

Charles Berrault, an *émigré* from St. Domingo after the insurrection there, being compelled to sustain himself and family, opened a dancing-school in 1814 at 300 Greenwich Street. He was for many years one of the two leading teachers of dancing in this city. He afterward removed to 31 Cortlandt Street, and in 1822 to 146 Fulton Street, in the Ross Building.

The first establishment for the repair and construction of steam-engines and boilers was that of Robert McQueen, a Scotch millwright, who in 1806, in connection with a Mr. Sturtevant, operated an air furnace on the corner of Barley and Cross streets (Centre).

James P. Allaire, who had commenced business as a brass-founder in the year 1813 in the upper part of Cherry Street, No. 434, had so extended his business under the patronage of Robert Fulton and the elder Gibbons, that he became the leading manufacturer of steam-engines, boilers, etc. The famous name of the Allaire Works was to be seen on a vast number of engines, especially on steamboats, at a time comparatively recent.

Of the change in social, domestic, and business customs and conveniences, from 1816 to the present day, none but one who has experienced it can give a proper estimate. At the earlier date, bathrooms were totally wanting in private houses and hotels, and there was but one public bath, that of Stoppani, in Chambers Street. Illuminating gas for the streets had been read of as a possible practicability. Clubs, street stages and cars, Sunday concerts, steamboat excursions, newspaper venders, and "Extras," street shoe-blacks, kindling-wood, expresses, organ-grinders, messenger boys, bananas, oranges—other than those from abroad—dates, grape-fruit, roasted chestnuts, photographs, telegraphs, railways, *chiffoniers*, drop-letter boxes, cabs, hansoms, sewing-machines, type-writing, eye-glasses—other than spectacles—and cigarettes were alike unknown; opposed to which we escaped the presence of "shysters," tramps, and the practice of "straw bail" in our courts, illustrated posters, and organ-grinders; but we had pure milk, a legitimate drama, and a more clearly defined line between man and gentleman, woman and lady ("salesladies" was an appellation wholly unknown), and a greater regard for social honor and business integrity.

The spectacles worn by those who required them were of a very different design and construction from that of this period. Thus: the side pieces were in two lengths, one sliding partly within the other, and retained in posi-

KENNEDY, WATTS, LIVINGSTON, AND STEVENS HOUSES, BROADWAY, OPPOSITE BOWLING GREEN



tion, when used, by their pressure against the sides of the head. Light steel frames, resting over the ears, spring bows, and *pince-nez*, secured with a ribbon or chain, were not known until about 1840, and not in general use until many years later.

The absurdities of billiard, shaving, and oyster "parlors," hair-cutting, tailor, boot-making, and fashion "emporiums," "anatomical" hair-cutting and boot-making, or "gentlemen's and ladies' dining-rooms," on West or South Street, in the condemned pilot-house of an old steamer, were unknown. I, in candor, however, may have to acknowledge to one or two "merchant" tailors, but not like too many of a late day, occupying small and confined apartments, with a very narrow scope of custom, restricted more to mending than making. Pipe-smoking (other than in common clay pipes by laborers) was also unknown.

For spirituous drinks, in most cases, but three cents per glass was charged; for ale, two or three cents; tobacco was three cents a paper; the habit of chewing tobacco was then far more common than now. Imported Havana cigars of the best quality could be bought for three cents, or five for a shilling ($12\frac{1}{2}$ cents), and, strange as it may now appear, young men carried them in their hats, for it is to be borne in mind that cigar-cases were a rarity, and that within hats there was purse-like diaphragm lining, well designed to retain a handful of cigars, a handkerchief, or a pair of gloves.

The fractional currency, in this and all the States at this period, was very generally the Spanish coins of 25, $12\frac{1}{2}$, and $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents, and they were denominated in the several States as follows: In New England, Kentucky, and Tennessee the dollar was divided into six shillings, and the coins were termed quarters, ninepence, and fourpence ha'penny. In this State, Ohio, and Michigan the dollar was divided into eight shillings, and the coins were

termed sixpence, one shilling, and two shillings, according to value. In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland the dollar was divided into seven shillings and sixpence, and the divisions were termed quarters, elevens, and fips; in South Carolina and Georgia, into four shillings and eightpence, and the divisions were known as quarters, bits, and picayunes. In consequence of the derangement of the currency by the war with Great Britain, and the failure of many country banks, provisions were scarce and dear: milk, 12½ cents per quart; flour, \$15 per barrel; and, a year later, butter, beef, lard, pork, and potatoes were imported from Belfast.

Perhaps I should here remark that there was a numerous class of caterers to the juvenile or junior tastes of the public that has wholly retired from operation. Their specialty was to disperse mead, spruce beer, cakes, and ginger pop; their *locale* was almost universally designated by a sign, on which, for the mead and beer, was delineated a bottle with a stream of liquor pouring from it into a tumbler at its side, with a uniformity of outline and of curve that would have done credit to a geometrical draughtsman. The ginger pop was designated in a very



CORNER OF BROADWAY AND MURRAY STREET, 1816

different manner, being totally devoid of any illustration of convenience or economy: inasmuch as two men were portrayed as fulfilling the regulations of a duel, being placed opposite to each other and each extending a bottle, from which emanated a stream of liquor propelling a cork, which was as the bullet of a pistol.

New York at this date contained but two billiard-rooms, one in the Washington Hall, the other in the *Café Français* in Warren Street near Broadway. American whiskey was not known as a general drink, and mint juleps were only heard of as a mixture said to be taken by people in the Southern States as a preventive against malaria. Rhine wines were unfamiliar, and the use of champagne in either public or private houses was very rare.

The employment of ice for any purpose but for making ice-cream was unknown. Families used an enclosed structure called a "safe," with woven wire sides and ends, admitting air and excluding flies (Croton-bugs did not then exist), and on these alone they depended for preservation of meats, milk, etc. Even the ice-cream (water ices were unheard of) was furnished only by Mrs. Usher, in Broadway, where the New York Hotel lately stood; and by John H. Contoit of the New York Garden, in 1801 at 39 Greenwich Street, in 1802 at 253 Broadway, and in 1806, and for many years after, at 355 Broadway, between Leonard and Franklin streets. The customary accommodations of these resorts were confined to rows of open apartments, termed boxes, white-washed or green-painted, with a plain bare table running through their centre, with a bare board seat on each side, capable of seating two persons, lighted, that is, essayed to be, by a dimly burning wick, floating in oil on a stand outside the entrance; colored waiters with their labelled numbers displayed in front, expressing, emphasizing, and displaying themselves in a manner known only to their race, and a

bill-of-fare comprising ice cream (vanilla, lemon, or strawberry, if in season), pound cake and lemonade, with the exception that, at Contoit's you could be served with a glass of veritable claret, and, if I recollect right, one of cognac too. Milk was borne in tin cans suspended from



ATLANTIC GARDEN, NO. 9 BROADWAY

the carriers' shoulders,—frequently women,—and was supplied from cows within the city limits or contiguous shores of Long Island and New Jersey. As there were no railroads or night passages of river steamboats, no other sources existed from which milk could be obtained. Milk wagons, “Orange County” milk and milk bottles, and freshened or fortified milk, were equally unknown. There were many cows which roamed the streets in the day and were stabled at night. The slaughtering of animals for the markets was wholly done by individual butchers on their premises in different parts of the city,

the blood and offal being carried to the river and deposited there. Gentlemen went to market, and in default of express companies, messengers, etc., often carried home a turkey, chicken, or a leg of lamb. The public authorities gave annually a prize to the farmer who submitted to them the best sample of butter of his production.

Canned vegetables and fruits were also unknown; hence, when their season passed they passed, and as railways and interstate steamboat lines did not exist, we did not receive the early fruits of the South or the game of the North and West. A grocer's store of the time was as unlike one of this day as if it was that of another line of business, there being a display neither of bottled nor canned articles, fancy cakes, biscuits, etc., in boxes. There were only two leading grocers of the Park & Tilford grade of a later period—Richard Buloid at 129 Broadway and James Geery at 119 Mulberry, corner of Bayard Street, who was widely known for the excellence of his teas. Mr. Richard Williamson, one of this class, appeared later (1825, at 85 Maiden Lane).

The drive for gentlemen and others who drove out of an afternoon was limited on the East side to Cato's (Fifty-Fourth Street and Second Avenue), a well-known resort,—see page 63,—where imported Havanas were sold, five for a shilling (12½ cents), and pure brandy at sixpence (6¼ cents) per glass—and for many years previous, and later, even down to 1830. Love Lane, before mentioned, was the resort on Saturday afternoons of cartmen, fish and oyster venders, etc., where their horses and those of others of a like grade were raced for such entrance stakes or wagers as were mutually agreed upon. The public race-course was on Hempstead Plains, and known as the New Market. The principal or noted restaurants were De Coussé's, in Reade Street, under Washington Hall; Ainslie's in Broadway, between Duane and Anthony

streets; and Lovejoy's, Broadway, corner of Anthony Street (Worth). Sunday excursions on steamboats, etc., were unknown. It was only at a later day, or about 1820, that the "Green" and river walk at Hoboken became a general afternoon resort.

The Turtle Club, afterward known as the Hoboken Turtle Club, was in existence; notices of its meetings were announced as dividends of twenty or twenty-five per cent., and termed spoon exercise. Also the Krout Club, which later was presided over by a Grand Krout, who once in a year was declared to have nodded, thereby indicating his assent to a meeting, which was opened at nine in the morning, and continued until late at night; at the dinner, smoked geese, "ringlets" (sausages), and sour-cROUT were the pieces of resistance. The symbol of the place of meeting was a cabbage on a pole. Members of the club were termed cabbage-heads, and a death or absence was termed wilting.

On the eve of Fourth of July, or Independence Day, booths were erected around the City Hall Park, and roast pig, eggnog, cider, and spruce beer were temptingly displayed. On the following day the militia formed at the Battery, paraded up Broadway to the City Hall, where it was reviewed by the Mayor and Aldermen, and after executing a *feu de joie* was dismissed. The various civic societies met, formed in line, and marched through some of the principal streets; the Tammany Society, by right of seniority, being assigned to the head of the column. Evacuation Day, or the anniversary of the evacuation of the city by the British, was very generally observed at this time. Horse, foot, and artillery, together with the veterans of the war, paraded. Salutes were fired in the morning, and public dinners occupied the evening. My readers are aware that this day never passes now without at least some slight observance in New York, and many of them will remember the elaborate preparations made

CATO'S TAVERN. FOR FORTY-EIGHT YEARS ON POST ROAD BETWEEN FIFTY-FIRST AND FIFTY-SECOND STREETS



for celebration of the Centennial Anniversary in 1883, and the furious storm of that day, which ruined a pageant that, with fine weather, would have been the most superb ever witnessed by the city up to that time.

The chief fuel of the time, and for many years after, was wood, sold by the load from the vessels that brought it to the city, each load measured by a City inspector. It was in full length (four feet), delivered in the street in front of buildings or residences, where it was sawed by wood sawyers (colored) in two lengths only, and occasionally split. Steam sawing and splitting mills were not introduced until very many years after, and if wood-yards existed, I do not recollect one. Coal was very little in use for domestic purposes except in parlor grates; in this vicinity it was commercially termed Liverpool or Newcastle, from the names of the ports from which it was shipped, and as it all came from abroad was generally known as "sea coal"; a title which it bore long after the mines of Virginia and Maryland were opened, and which is heard in the speech of old-fashioned persons even to this day. Anthracite was virtually unknown. Some of it had been mined in Rhode Island under management of the Rhode Island Coal Co. of 42 Wall and 47 Canal streets, which distributed samples of it among a few of our well-known citizens to test and report thereon. One of them, Martin S. Wilkins, of 53 White Street, upon being applied to for his response replied:

"I am willing to certify that, under favorable circumstances this coal is capable of ignition, and I am willing further to certify that, if Rhode Island is underlaid with such coal, then, at the general conflagration which our ministers predict, it will be the last place to burn."

Furnaces, hall-stoves, and the air-tight stoves for bedrooms were absent from the houses of the period; and in severe weather the best of these houses were much less comfortable than many stables of this day. Warming-

pans for beds were all but a necessity for elderly persons, bedrooms being so cold that washing in the morning often could be done only after first breaking the ice in the pitcher. The facilities for procuring a light for fire at the present time are so widely different from and so much more convenient than methods at that time, that the question has been very frequently asked, How did we put up with such inconvenience? The only reliable artificial method was that of the construction of a tinder-box, filled with tinder of well-scorched rag, a flint, and a suitable piece of steel; or by the rapid operation of a steel wheel, rotated by drawing a long cord previously wound around its axis; to the face of this was applied a flint, the sparks elicited by it falling upon the tinder, to which, when ignited, a sulphur or bituminous match, as it was termed, was applied and lighted. The French phosphoric matches, borne in a case with a vial of a phosphoric mixture and twenty-five matches, price fifty cents, were altogether unreliable. As a consequence of the difficulty attendant upon these inconvenient methods, when a light was required at night, as in the rooms of sick persons, city fire-engine houses, etc., tapers in oil were maintained lighted.

The doors of domestic bedrooms were seldom locked at night by the occupants, and the entrances to dwellings in the summer season were held to be sufficiently secured, in the daytime, by the closing of an outer blind-door. House-bells were but very little used; in a few cases there were bells for the street-door and the parlors, but generally the street-door was furnished with a knocker, and bedrooms were wholly without bells. The very convenient custom of residents having their names on an engraved plate on their front-doors was in general observance; it is to be regretted that it has been abandoned. Domestic service at this period and long afterward, or until the introduction of illuminating gas, hot-air furnaces, and

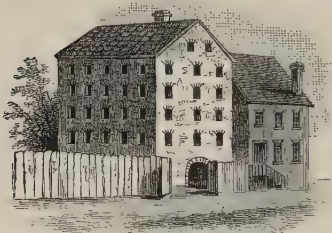


CITY HALL AND PARK, 1822

Croton water, and the construction of street sewers, was much more onerous than at this time. Oil lamps required trimming and filling; candlesticks, the fronts of grate-fenders, and frequently the shovel and tongs of brass, were to be cleaned; wood and coal to be brought from the cellar to all the fires, and the absence of hall-stoves rendered fires necessary in all sitting-rooms. All water required for the kitchen, or bedrooms, or for baths, was drawn from the nearest street-pump, and all refuse water and slops were carried out to the street and emptied into the gutter; the brass ornaments on the iron railings of the stoop, the door-plate, and the knocker, called for cleaning; added to which, the street, for half its width in front of each dwelling, was to be swept twice a week. A prudent person would hesitate before asking a third of the like services of a domestic of late years. A full beard, or even an imperial or goatee, was unknown, except when a native of an Eastern country would appear with the former, and as such an exhibition was a rarity, the wearer would be an object of general attention, even to being followed by a number of boys.

The city at this time offered but few and restricted attractions to a foreigner, but from the convenience consequent upon its restricted area, the simple wants of its citizens, and the dependence upon the comforts of home enlivened by evening visits and gatherings then truly social, it was a very desirable place of residence; more so than it ever can be again, except to those who profit by its metropolitan character. In the absence of club-houses, theatres, and other places of amusement, and of late dinners, the houses of New York were more strictly homes than at present. Evening visiting was general, and in the winter season quilting parties and entertainments with hickory nuts, apples, new cider, and dough-nuts, were the custom, occasionally varied by whiskey-punch—not that of the present day, sweetened with

a questionable sugar, and with a slice of lemon-peel, but both sweetened and soured with currant or guava jelly. Cards were much used; and the elders played



SUGAR HOUSE, LIBERTY STREET

whist, while the younger part of the company indulged in round games.

In evening gatherings confined to the young, dough-nuts, crullers, apples, hickory nuts, and cider were also served, and the boiling and pulling of molasses candy were accepted elements of fun and

frolic. The family tables were very simply supplied, and the hours of meals were regular; breakfast at eight, dinner, which very generally consisted of but one course, at from two to three, and supper at from six to seven o'clock. On the first or parlor floors of the houses were two pantries, in which the table china, glasses, and company tea-set were placed, together with the fruit preserves, which had been made by the mistress in person at the kitchen fire. There were then no canned fruits, etc., and so imperative was the duty upon all provident housekeepers to make these preserves for the coming season and year that such of the few as were visiting in the country were accustomed to hurry to the city early in September to provide them, as well as the required sausages and head-cheese. In all dining-rooms there was a sideboard, a large piece of furniture in which were held the knives, forks, spoons, etc., of the table; it also was the repository of liquors of various kinds, and at all evening visits, guests, without exception, were invited to partake of a friendly or a parting glass, usually of brandy.

It was not considered at all necessary that the counters

of banks and bankers should be shut in by wire nets or iron gratings, since sneak-thieves and the like were seldom heard of. Clerks never ventured to wear their hats within the precincts of their employment, neither did they or other young men of the day fail to remove them on entering an office or dwelling, *heu mutatus*. The duties of the junior clerk of that time were very different from those of the present day, both in character and extent. He was required to sweep the offices, to go to the Post-office, both for letters and to post them (there was but one office; stations and lamp-post boxes were unknown), and, in many employments, he swept the sidewalk and the street to half its width, in front of the store in which he was employed. Readers of the present day may be surprised to be told that at the period noted, and for many years after, blotting-paper, as a convenience in writing, was measurably unknown. Metallic sand, writing sand as it was termed, was used for absorbing ink, and a sand-box was nearly as requisite to a writing-desk as a pen and ink. Copying presses did not exist, and as a consequence the junior clerk in a counting house had not only to copy all outgoing letters, but, in case of those sent abroad, he had to make duplicates to be sent by the next packet; but offices were opened before nine o'clock in the morning, and kept open until dark; and on packet days, until the correspondence was finished, however late. A carpeted office was a rarity, while its furniture was of a very plain character. In illustration of the sentiments then entertained regarding what was deemed unnecessary expense in offices, and the evil effects of such extravagance, so late as 1826 a member of an importing house in this city called at the office of a house that had just failed, regarding the condition of his claim against it. On his return he reported to his senior partner that he was not surprised at the failure, as he found a large open coal fire in their

office, when it was so hot he had to ask to have the window opened, and the floor was carpeted; such extravagance as that could but, in his opinion, lead to bankruptcy. So great is the difference between the earlier portion of the century and these its closing days, when the highest luxury of business appointments is often vaunted as a sign of prosperity, and, it may almost be said, appealed to as a basis of credit.

There was a feature in social requirements of that day, prejudices as some would say, that was as decided as it may be incredible to many persons of the present time, and it is one so wholly opposed to existing practices that I would not endanger the estimate of my veracity by referring to it, but that I have frequently mentioned it when in presence of persons of a like age with mine, and in every instance my statement has been endorsed, viz.: no man who was known to smoke a cigar in the streets or at his office in business hours, could have procured a discount at any bank in the city. There was but one Exchange and that at the Tontine Coffee House (see page 48); the hour of meeting was 1 P. M., and the general dinner-hour of merchants and professional men was from two to three; after which they returned to their counting-rooms or offices and remained until the close of daylight.

The windows of stores and shops were closed tightly at night by shutters, and as the street oil-lamps were very infrequent, the streets were so very indifferently lighted, compared to the present illumination by electricity, gas-lamps, and the gas-lights in stores with unobstructed open plate-glass windows, that they would not now be held to be lighted at all; and besides, during the period of a quarter and a three-quarter moon, the lamps were not lighted, whether the moon was obscured or not, as the lighting of them was determined by the almanac.

At this time the apprentice system was in full opera-

tion; boys desiring to acquire a trade were apprenticed to the employer until they were twenty-one years of age, and in most cases, as of old, they resided in the house of the employer and consequently were subjected to his discipline, not only in deportment but as to hours of retiring and other habits of life. Workmen, that is, all artisans and laborers, whether men or apprentices, were employed and paid according to the work performed by them, and the estimate of their capacity. Employers engaged or discharged whomsoever they saw fit to, and although there were not any societies that assumed to fix the wages of workmen, the rate of wages for the different grades of work and classes of workmen was well known and as well observed and conceded. Thus, an idle, irregular, and unmarried man, who would be frequently absent when most wanted, was not paid an equal amount with a steady man with a family to provide for.

A young gentleman of this city, son of a well-known and respectable resident, returned from brief travel in Europe with his upper lip adorned with a moustache. This was the very first display of one by an American in this city, and it was so observedly singular and exceptional that it occasioned much comment and criticism. So great was this departure from the custom of our people that it was not until 1836, and then only by progressive invasion upon the general prejudice, that such exhibitions, as they were termed, were at all assented to; even so late as 1850, I have heard moustaches termed "monstrous" by persons of taste, culture, and sober judgment.

The law of imprisonment for debt was in force at this time, and the jail for this non-criminal class becoming overcrowded, certain of them were allowed freedom within fixed limits outside of the jail, or "jail liberties," as they were termed, which were then confined to the territory below Anthony on the north and west sides and

somewhere about its adjoining street on the east side; notices of the limits being painted on the corners.



Church service, even, has undergone a marked change. At 9 A. M. on a Sunday, the church bells were rung, probably for the purpose of reminding the citizens of the day, and again at 10 and 10.30 and at 2 and 7 P. M. for the afternoon and evening services. The choirs, with the exception of that of Grace Church, where Miss Ellen Gillingham sang, were composed of volunteers from the congregation, led by a precentor, or, as in the Episcopal Churches, by the clerk. In the Presbyterian and other Reformed Churches the length of the morning prayer and of the sermon was a terror to juveniles, and irksome to all others, however much they feigned to think otherwise; even the doxologies to a psalm partook of the general extension. Sunday dinners in families very generally were but cold collations. The streets were measurably void of passing vehicles, yet, that the church services might not be disturbed, it was ordered that during the hours of Divine worship chains should be placed across the streets bounding a church. This ordinance, however, was so generally opposed that, about the year 1828, it was universally disregarded.



Men's and boys' clothing and the manner of procuring

it was very different from the modes of this time. The street dress of gentlemen consisted of a blue coat with gilt buttons, white or buff waistcoat with gold buttons (I retain a set), knee-breeches of buckskin, buckles, and top boots. Spencers, or cloth jackets, in cold weather were often worn over coats, and for outer wear "box-coats" as they were termed, that is, great-coats with from one to seven or more capes buttoned on. Wellington boots (introduced and so termed after the Battle of Waterloo), cut high with tassels at the tops, prevailed; they were worn outside of the pantaloons. Shirt collars were very full, false collars and wristbands or cuffs were unimagined; black or white cravats, none other—not the ribbons, etc., of this day—but stiffened with a "pudding" of wool, horse-hair, or hog's bristles; to the bosoms of the shirts were attached low down pleated frills. Black clothing was never worn except for mourning or by clergymen.

The full dress of gentlemen was dark dress coat with rolling collar running down low in front, short-waisted white waistcoat, frilled bosom to shirt, knee-breeches with gold buckles, black silk stockings and pumps; watch-chain and seal displayed pendent from a fob in the breeches.

The walking dress of ladies, and for some years after, was essentially alike to the illustration here given, with the variation of Leghorn bonnets or flats, as they were termed, which were imported, one entire with an additional crown or body piece, in order that by cutting off one-half the rim of the full one with the loose crown-piece sewed to it, two full bonnets were made. Long ribbons were tied in a bow, hanging down from the waist behind, near the ground; and on the forehead many wore at the sides false hair, fashioned alike to short drapery and termed *frizettes*, and all wore high and broad tortoise-shell combs. Fur muffs were of the full dimen-

sions of a ten-gallon keg, and were frequently used in shopping as receptacles, as well as for the hands.

Boys' clothing was made by seamstresses from the discarded garments of father or elder brothers; their mittens for cold weather were knitted by the female members of



PETERSFIELD, THE RESIDENCE OF PETRUS STUYVESANT. (*See p. 49.*)

the house, and as to military or like uniforms they were confined solely to the scholars of two French schools.

In the outer adornment of both men and women, the custom and fashion of the day were materially at variance with that of the present here illustrated as to men, and as to women I am regretfully at a loss for a description; but I know that one article of their underwear, now held to be indispensable, was not worn by ladies at all until many years after. There were at this time but two "slop" tailors, as they were termed, and they in Cherry Street; that is, stores where one could purchase an outfit of garments, designed for the convenience of seamen, boatmen, and

longshoremen. The descendant of one of these dealers now occupies a leading position in the clothing business in the upper part of Broadway. Clothiers or "merchant tailors" were unknown; as men in all parts of the country, excepting those who dealt with the slop tailors referred to, obtained their clothing directly from tailors, the absurd prefix of "merchant" was then wanting.

Children's sports were conducted with a measure of simplicity far removed from the elaborate provision of the "sporting goods" shops which are now considered necessary. If a base-ball was required, the boy of 1816 founded it with a bit of cork, or, if he were singularly fortunate, with some shreds of india-rubber; then it was wound with yarn from a ravelled stocking, and some feminine member of his family covered it with patches from a soiled glove. Our skates were a primitive instrument, compared with those of a later period. The blades were very thin, and generally of iron, involving the frequent filing of the gutters to keep them sufficiently sharp for safety; there were heel and toe straps, without screws for the heel of the shoe; and as a result, we had to draw all the straps so tight, to maintain the skates in position, that the necessary circulation of the blood in our feet was arrested, and we were frequently tortured with pain and cold. The modern effective mechanical appliances by which they are now fastened with a single motion were not introduced until very many years later. For a base-ball bat, if anything better than a casual flat or round stick was required, negotiation had to be entered into with some wood-turner to induce him to lay aside his regular work to produce one. Then, if the boy could manage to be present at the time of the important operation, he witnessed it with absorbed interest and bore away with him the new creation with gratifying feelings of pride and possession. Yet we did play ball, skate, etc., and enjoyed ourselves; although in the absence of stages

or any means of public conveyance, we walked from below Canal Street, the then limit of the city, to Stuyvesant's meadow, the Sunfish pond, or Cedar Creek, and were satisfied.

Christmas was very slightly observed as a general holiday at the time of which I write, and Christmas shopping and Christmas presents, except those of "Santa Claus" for children, scarcely existed. New Year's Day was the popular winter holiday, the very old custom of paying New Year's visits being universal, as indeed it continued to be until perhaps twenty years ago (1874). There is no old New Yorker who does not regret the abandonment of this time-honored custom, however much it may be required by changed conditions; especially by the extension of the town and resulting enlargement of men's acquaintance and visiting lists.

Notable events in this year were the completion of Macomb's Dam, at the site of the present bridge, which soon became a justly favorite spot for fishing, the opening of Eighth and Ninth avenues and First and Thirteenth streets, the extension of Hudson Street from Laight Street to Greenwich Avenue, and of Franklin Street. In this year was organized, under the presidency of Cadwallader D. Colden, the Manumission Society to advance the freedom of slaves at the South. On July 5 there was frost in many localities of the island.

At No. 80 William Street a Frenchman of the name of Francis Adonis, who displayed a sign reading, "Hair-dresser from Paris," and whose customers were principally French refugees, had been a notorious character, from the circumstance that from the time of his advent here until the restoration of a Bourbon in the person of Louis XVIII. he, when in public, bore his hat under one arm, in pursuance of a declaration that he would never wear one until a Bourbon was restored to the French

MACOMB'S DAM AND CONTINUATION OF ROAD FROM ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIFTH STREET, HARLEM RIVER



throne. He claimed to have been the hair-dresser of Louis XVI.

Columbia College, instituted 1753 and located in an area bounded by Murray, Church, the south line of Robinson Street (Park Place) not then opened through, and Chapel (College Place), was removed in



COLUMBIA COLLEGE, 1851

1857 to corner of Madison Avenue and Forty-ninth Street.

The students of the college, prior to its removal, alike to the students of other colleges, did not entertain or practise gymnastics as an element of college education. Of those of Columbia I write advisedly—they were not members of a boat club, base-ball, or foot-ball team.

On Saturday afternoons, in the fall of the year, a few students would meet in the “hollow” on the Battery, and play an irregular game of football, generally without

teams or "sides," as they were then termed; a mere desultory engagement.

As this "hollow" was the *locale* of base-ball, "marbles," etc., and as it has long since been obliterated, and in its existence was the favorite resort of schoolboys and all others living in the lower part of the city, it is worthy of record. Thus: it was very nearly the entire area bounded by Whitehall and State Streets, the sea wall line, and a line about two hundred feet to the west; it was of an uniform grade, fully five feet below that of the street, it was nearly as uniform in depth, and as regular in its boundary as a dish.

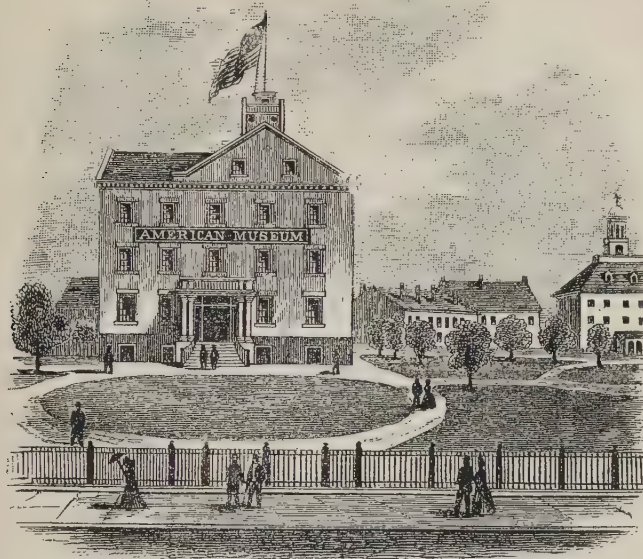
The American Museum of John Scudder, first opened in 1810 at 21 Chatham Street, removed in this year to the west end of the building of the New York Institution, on Chambers Street.

The block bounded by Centre, Leonard, Elm, and Franklin streets was occupied by the city, and known as the Corporation Yard, where the fire-engine and ladder trucks were built and equipped, and light work was done connected with repairs of public buildings, coffins for paupers, etc. The American Bible Society was organized in May of this year, and its first publication was issued, in 1819, from No. 20 Slote Lane.* David Bruce, from Scotland in 1793, first introduced stereotyping. Later, he was the senior member of the firm of David & George Bruce.

At this period there were but ten wards in the city. Arson was punishable with death. Slavery existed, both slaves and their "times" were advertised in daily papers.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Benjamin Moore, second Bishop of New York, died in February of this year, being succeeded in office by his coadjutor, John Henry Hobart, who displayed distinguished ability in his administration during the next fifteen years.

* Now non-existing.



NEW YORK INSTITUTION OR ALMSHOUSE AND PART OF JAIL

The names of the following streets were changed previous to the date of these reminiscences, but were frequently referred to under their original names.

OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW
Crown, . . .	Liberty Street.	Little Dock,	South, between Whitehall and Old Slip.
Dock, . . .	Pearl, between Broad and Hanover Square.	Little Queen,	Cedar.
Duke, . . .	South William.	Magazine, .	Part of Pearl.
Dyes, . . .	Dey.	Partition, .	Fulton, between Broadway and North River.
Fair, . . .	Fulton, between Broadway and Cliff.	Princess, .	Beaver, between Broad and William.
George, . . .	Spruce.	Queen, . . .	Pearl, between Wall and Broadway.
King George,	William, between Frankfort and Pearl.	Robinson, .	Park Place.
King, . . .	Pine.	St. James, .	James.

CHAPTER IV

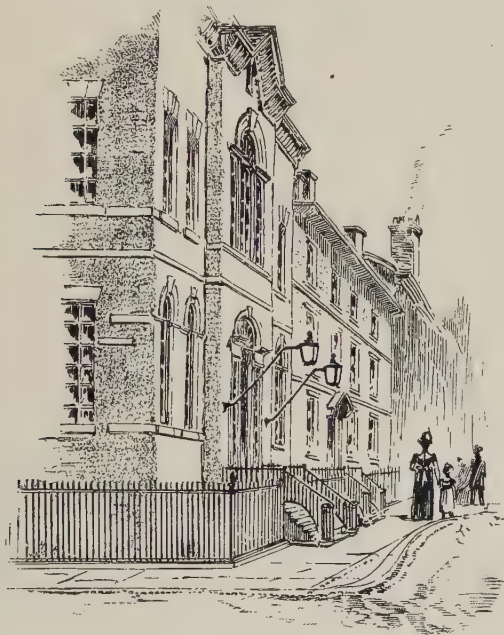
JACOB RADCLIFFE (1817-1818), CADWALLADER D. COLDEN
(1818), MAYORS

1817. IN this year were opened the following streets : First, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Orchard, Chrystie, Forsyth, Eldridge, Allen, and Ludlow, the five last named after military and naval heroes, viz.: Lieutenant-colonel John Chrystie, killed on the Niagara frontier; Lieutenant-colonel Forsyth of the Rifles, wounded in Canada in the same year; Lieutenant Eldridge, scalped in Canada; Lieutenant William H. Allen, wounded in the action between the *Argus* and H. B. M. S. *Pelican*; Lieutenant Ludlow, killed in the engagement between the *Chesapeake* and H. B. M. S. *Shannon*. Pike Street perpetuates the name of General Pike, killed in the attack upon York (Toronto), Canada—all in the same year of 1813.

Anthony Street (Worth), had been extended to Orange (Baxter), making at the intersection with Cross (Park) Street, five angular corners; these were designated and known as the "Five Points"—a locality that attained a national reputation as the resort of the abandoned of both sexes and of all nations.

This year saw the beginning of the North River Steamboat Co., hence to Albany. In evidence of the rising commerce of New York at this time it should be noted here that on March 8 twenty-five square-rigged vessels, besides schooners and sloops, proceeded to sea, and on the 7th of November following there were thirty-six arrivals of sea-going vessels inside Sandy Hook. In August a horse-boat was for the first time put on the

ferry to Hoboken. On November 29 the Staten Island Ferry was improved by employment of a steamboat, the *Nautilus*, making four trips a day; fare twenty-five cents. Captain Cornelius Vanderbilt (afterward the "Commodore"), as owner and master of the rowing and sailing



NO. 1 BROADWAY, 1817

ferry-boat *Dread*, took from the ship *Neptune*, stranded at Sandy Hook, four hundred and six thousand dollars in specie. Attached to the Fire Department was a floating fire-engine, the machinery of which some years after was transferred over a well in what was then the Corporation Yard, now the site of the Tombs, and designated Supply Engine No. 1.

The Custom House occupied the new building at the

corner of Wall and Nassau streets (see page 155), which was taken down 1834, and replaced with a new structure which is now the Subtreasury. On February 20 the banks resumed specie payments. The New York Exchange Board of Brokers in this year consisted of twenty-eight members. The City Directory (Longworth's) contained but 19,677 names; it is worthy of note that up to about the year 1825 this publication gave in addition to names and residences information, complete as to some matters but as to others only partial, as concerning the tariff, some city ordinances, the courts, the common council, watchmen, nurses, firemen, etc. In December of the year it was officially estimated that there were twenty thousand hogs running at large in the streets of the city. The question was asked about this time why the rear of the City Hall had been made of freestone, while its front and ends were of white marble, and the explanation was given that at the time the Hall was designed its location was so far up-town that the authorities of the day decided it would be useless to incur the cost of a marble rear, when there would be few or none to see it; as a writer of that period declared, it "would be out of sight of all the world."

In these days our civic fathers met in council in the afternoon and adjourned promptly at six, when the Keeper (Custodian) of the City Hall received them in the "tea room," as it was termed, where a substantial entertainment was provided, followed by schnapps and pipes.

The name of the triangular plot at the intersection of Cherry and Pearl streets, or St. George's Square, was changed to Franklin Square, and it is an odd coincidence that in this same year James and John Harper began business at the corner of Front and Dover Streets; the chief significance of Franklin Square at the present day being the long continuance there of the great publishing-house of Harper & Bros., thus founded in the year when

the Square was named in honor of a very eminent printer.

It was in this year that the Legislature authorized the construction of the Erie Canal, from Albany to Buffalo, approved by the Council of Revision; a distance of 363 miles, with a width at surface of 40 feet, at bottom 28 feet, and a depth of 4 feet, locks 90 feet in length and 15 feet in width. The first shovelful of earth was raised on July 4 of this year at Rome, and the work was finished in 1825.

In Canal Street on the west side, near to Broadway, there was on Saturday afternoons a horse-market at which the street venders of fish, oysters, clams, etc., supplied themselves; the prices varying from dollars to cents. It has been told that on one occasion one of a family of children, who had been indulged with a ride on one of her father's horses, was so pleased with the amusement that she solicited her mother to aid her father with another shilling, to enable him to buy a "bully one."

At this date, or just before, there was a notorious character called "Potpie" Palmer, who was said to have entered a kitchen during the War of the Revolution and run off with a potpie. He is here mentioned because his name was a by-word among the boys of the time, coupled with the declaration,

"Potpie Palmer was a jolly old soul,
With a three-cornered hat and the pie he stole."

He was also the "bugbear," or *croque-mitaine*, held up by mothers and nurses to frighten unruly children into submission.

M. Paff, known as "Old Paff," formerly at 20 Wall Street, now kept a variety or bric-a-brac store at 221 Broadway, on a part site of the present Astor House. He also bought and sold paintings, and some marvellous

stories were told of his availing himself of his knowledge in purchasing old, laid-aside paintings, restoring them, and selling them at a great profit.

In November the *soi-disant* Baron von Hoffman, last from St. Thomas, landed in New York, having crossed the North River from Paulus Hook (Jersey City) in a rowboat, and in explanation of his want of a wardrobe, letters of introduction, etc., he alleged that his trunks were lost in transit on the river.

A daily paper recited, as a matter of interesting information, that in Paris there were street shoeblacks, and the announcement gave rise to much speculation and even wonderment, for at this time the industry of boot and shoe blacking was confined to persons usually occupying a low-rent cellar, who called at your residence in the forenoon, received your boots and shoes of the previous day's wear and returned them cleaned in the afternoon, terms one dollar per month.

At this time, and later, ladies walking to or from any public place along a crowded sidewalk were commonly subject to the indignity of having their dresses maliciously defiled by tobacco juice ejected upon them by evil-disposed persons from behind. So frequent were the perpetrations of this offence that the newspapers of the day referred to it, and ladies were restricted to the wear of dresses that would be the least injured by this pollution. I know of a case where a Cashmere shawl was much injured,—it is yet in existence,—and soon after an expensive dress was soiled. As I have already remarked, the custom of tobacco chewing was very common at the time under mention. I offer no apology for the mention of these trivialities, only explaining that under the conditions of the period—the small size of New York and the dearth of more significant general news—trifles became important, and were made the subjects of town-talk. To report them, therefore, is to illustrate the life

of that day, and my concern is to reveal New York as it actually was near eighty years ago, not to maintain "the dignity of history." This explanation is to be applied to all cases wheresoever I deal with matters of small import in the course of this volume.

Before the introduction of shop butchers, when a butcher in any of the public markets became possessed of an exceptionally fine beef or a number of sheep, he would



WALTON HOUSE, FRANKLIN SQUARE, NEAR PECK SLIP, 1776

parade them through the principal streets, as Broadway, Bowery, Greenwich, and Grand streets, preceded by a band of music and followed by the fellow-butchers of his market, with their aprons and sleeves on, in their wagons (of a different construction from that of a later time), the *cortège* being arrested before the house of the customers of the butcher, when it was expected of the occupants to step out and give an order for such part of the animal paraded as they elected.

A large building on the East side of Broadway, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, was known as the

Manhattan Bank*, and so designated in a map of a later day; but why so termed I have forgotten.

The weather at this time was so intensely cold that the head and all harbors of Long Island Sound were closed by ice.

Manufacturers, ship and house builders, masons, etc., made their business calls and city travel on horseback to such an extent that on a Saturday one would see a dozen saddled horses hitched to awnings and lamp-posts in and about Wall Street.

1818. All the public bulkheads and piers (commonly and erroneously termed docks) and slips were rented for one year for \$42,750. Essex Market, on Grand between Essex and Ludlow streets, was built. Fourth Street and Sixth Avenue, from Carmine Street to Greenwich Lane, were opened.

The Chambers Street (later the Bleecker Street), the first bank for savings, was opened on 26th of March in a room in the basement of the New York Institution, which was a building on the site of the present Court House, and used as an Almshouse, Court House, and in part by Scudder's Museum (see *ante* p. 83), and in this its first year two hundred and thirteen thousand dollars were received by it. This bank has continued always a monument of wise and honest management, conducted in the spirit of its originators, who at its beginning declared their objects to be "to cherish meritorious industry, to encourage frugality and retrenchment, and to promote the welfare of families, the cause of morality, and the good order of society." Philip Hone records in his "Diary," under date of July 12, 1841, on taking office as president of this bank, his gratification "at having been elevated by the unanimous vote of my associates to the honorable station of president of the greatest associated institution in the United States"—greatest, he goes on to say, in influence and volume of business transacted, and then

adds, "and greatest (I think I may from experience assert) in the good which it has already done and all it may hereafter (with a continuance of the blessings of Almighty God) be the means of doing." This is a vibration of the keynote struck by the founders of the institution; they and their successors for a long time gave their services as managers gratuitously, however absorbing and laborious the duty might have been. The list of elder Presidents includes, besides Mr. Hone, the names of John Pintard, Najah Taylor, Marshall S. Bidwell, John C. Green, and Robert Lenox Kennedy, while the present trustees compose a gathering of men foremost in New York for business capacity and integrity. This bank, until lately known as the Bleecker Street, is now at Fourth Avenue and Twenty-second Street.

The average of the passages in 1817, hence to Liverpool, was twenty-three days, and from Liverpool to this port, forty-five days. In August a London newspaper acknowledged receiving advices from India by way of New York.

On political occasions a buck's tail was worn in front of the hat by the Republicans (Democrats), members of the Tammany Society; it was held to be a symbol of Liberty, and had been originally worn in the Revolution to distinguish Whigs from Tories.

As an illustration of the nationality of our citizens at this time, so few were the Germans that, upon occasion of a well-known and intelligent citizen of Hackensack being asked if the language he spoke (now known as Jersey Dutch) was alike to that of the Germans, he replied he did not know, but that one of his neighbors had met a German and spoken to him, but he did not understand him. So rare was then the meeting with a German in New York !

In consequence of the frequent robbing of the United States mail-coach, between this city and Washington, the

Post-office Department was compelled to employ guards, and offer arms to the passengers; and piracy was so common in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico that the Government fitted out and despatched cruisers for its suppression.

John Barnes, comedian, and for many years a well-known and popular member of the Park Theatre Company; Miss Leesugg, afterward the wife of James Hackett; and James W. Wallack, all of England, made their first appearance here in this year. September, Wallack first appeared as *Macbeth*, thus beginning what was destined to be a long and brilliant career in New York. He came here again ten years later.

At the New Market course in May, American Eclipse, owned by C. H. Van Ranst, a horse that became famous some years after as the winner of the great stake of twenty thousand dollars (1824) at Union Course, L. I., ran a first heat of three miles in six minutes and four seconds, and a second in six minutes and five seconds.

That familiar and ever to be remembered house of entertainment, the City Hotel, on the west side of Broadway, opened in 1806, occupied the front from Thames to Cedar Street. It was kept by Chester Jennings, assisted by the celebrated Willard, who, for his urbanity of manner and wonderful remembrance of persons, was the theme of many a tale. Abram C. Dayton, in his interesting "Last Days of Knickerbocker Life," relates the following tale: "A gentleman, with nothing peculiar in person, name, or position to fix his identity, had been a transient guest of the house, but owing to a serious illness of a favorite child, his stay had been prolonged many days beyond his anticipations, and on the convalescence of the patient he had paid his bill and left for his distant home. Nothing more. He did not even remember that Willard had exchanged with him any other than the most ordinary civilities. After an absence

BRICK CHURCH, PARK ROW, AND ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL, 1816



of more than five years, business called him once more to the city, and, with carpet-bag in hand, he stood face to face with Willard, awaiting his turn to put down his name and to be assigned an apartment. Ere he had uttered a word, or given the slightest sign of recognition, the traveller was astounded by: 'How are you, Mr. —? Hope your boy recovered! Glad to see you again! Show this gentleman to his old room, No. —.'"

There was at this period a well-known lounge on Broadway of the name of McDonald Clarke, who was known in consequence of his writings and some eccentric manners of dress and expression as the "mad poet." An elegy he wrote upon his mother indicated talent far above mediocrity. In an interview with him and an editor of a paper, the conversation turned upon ancestry; when the former said, "If you seek for ancestry in this city, you are most likely to stumble over a lap-stone or a butcher's stall." He died on March 5, 1842, in the Poorhouse. In July the *soi-disant* Baron von Hoffman, before referred to, essayed, or affected, to stab himself. The operations of this man filled for more than a year so general and so conspicuous a place in the eyes of the public, and in the interest and communications of society, that they are worthy of a reference. Landing upon a pier in the city, without baggage (alleged to have been lost in transit of the river, as before mentioned), he announced himself as Baron von Hoffman, and being accredited and received as such, he soon displayed himself as a gentleman of connections and fortunes. His turnout, a tilbury, with a horse laden with gilded harness, was daily seen in Broadway. As it became indispensably necessary for him to meet the expenses of his establishment, repay borrowed moneys, and retain his position, he paid his addresses to a lady of this city and was well received and welcomed; but, unfortunately for him, a friend of the lady's accidentally

discovered in a jeweller's shop on Broadway the rejected corner of a piece of parchment, which, appearing to him to have its inner lines alike to that of a seal he had just seen on a patent of nobility of the baron's, he took possession and compared it, and thus closed the career in this country of one of the most pretentious swindlers that ever appeared here. Much more in connection with this affair might be written, but insomuch as there are relations and descendants of the persons that figured in it, it is proper to omit further mention. The man had been a *valet* and a courier.

There were not in this year ten private carriages proper. Many years past I essayed to recapitulate the number of citizens who possessed them, and I could not exceed seven, and to meet some one or more I may have missed, I put the number as first above.

James D. Oliver, a barber, occupied the upper part of the store No. 27 Nassau Street, corner of Maiden Lane, from 1818. Many of his patrons were the celebrities of the period; being observing, loquacious, and caustic in his remarks, the barber and his sayings were frequently quoted.

The price of the best beef in the market was at this date 12½ cents per pound; mutton, 8 cents; fowls, per pair, 56 cents; oak wood, \$2.25 per cord; walnut, \$3.50, and pine, \$1.62½. Shad, unless brought from Philadelphia by stage and steamboat, were not in the market until they were taken in the Upper Bay and North River.

At No. 269 Broadway, near Warren Street, there was the confectionery shop of Peter Cotté, who occasionally received a bunch of bananas, which he displayed outside to the wonder of a great proportion of our citizens, juveniles, and country people. He procured them from some venturesome officers of a vessel trading from Havana.

The Richmond Hill House, built in 1760, was located

on a hill of considerable elevation, commanding a fine prospect, its site bounded by Varick, Charlton, Macdougall, and Vandam streets. It was occupied by General Washington in 1776, and by Vice-president Adams in 1788: when its advantages as a country residence were described as being one and one-half miles from the city. Built for his pleasure by Paymaster-general Mortier of the British Army, it was the scene of lavish hospitality in his day, as well as when it was in the dignified occupancy of John Adams, while he resided there. Then, in 1804, it passed by lease into Aaron Burr's possession, who dwelt here while he also was Vice-president, and for a considerable term besides. Even after Burr's tenancy the house maintained its traditionary fame as the seat of elegant private life. Being located on very high ground, in order to reduce it to the grade of the street it was this year undermined, rested on a cradle or sliding ways, and launched



RICHMOND HILL HOUSE, VARICK STREET, BETWEEN CHARLTON AND VANDAM STREETS

to the desired locality and grade. In 1834 it was added to and converted into a theatre known as the Richmond Hill, and subsequently was used as a road house. At this theatre (Richmond Hill), on the occasion of a row in the gallery, a coal stove in full ignition was hurled from it to the pit, and "Bill" Harrington, well-known from his defeat of his opponent in a ring in Philadelphia, took an active part in protecting parties who were present in the boxes.

Boarding-schools for boys were very differently operated from those of a later period, and, writing from experience, I can report that school was always opened with the reading of a chapter from the Bible. The range of our school-books was very limited; we were examined on Fridays as to our retention of that we had been taught or acquired during the preceding days of the week, and if we failed twice (two marks) we lost the Saturday holiday. On Sundays we were not only compelled to attend both morning and afternoon service, when the "minister," preparatory to giving the text of his sermon, laid his watch in front of him, and resolutely, consistently, and punctually read from his manuscript one full hour; and during the intervals between rising, meals, and sermons, we were not allowed to indulge in any amusement, or to read other than the Bible, and loud talking and laughing were offences not readily pardoned.

We were allowed two vacations of one week each in April and September, to enable us to procure clothes suited to the coming season, and on two of our National holidays, Fourth of July and Thanksgiving Day. Christmas and New Year's were ignored; and we were neither drilled or uniformed, but often striped. In fact,

"When I was a schoolboy, aged ten,
Very few were the books that I knew;
With my short, striped trousers and now and then
With a stripe on my jacket, too."

Morning prayer, schoolroom, and the Bible were the three great lights or guides of our faith and duties, which were supplemented by three lesser, as "Lindley Murray," "Daboll," and a birch rod; and it is worthy of record that then, and for many years after, our school-books were very primitive. Analytical treatises in arithmetic, mechanics, chemistry, and physics; familiar and instructive readers in history, etc.; etymology, descriptive geography, *et id genus omne*, were wholly unknown to us. There were bounds assigned out of which we were not permitted to pass, and there were no evening or other amusements *extra muros*, yet we enjoyed the gathering of fruits and nuts, base-ball, skating, and coasting in their seasons; and in our rambles of a Saturday holiday, woe to any snake we met, as neither a bog nor the interstices of a stone wall were security against the zealous labors of twenty hands; the point of honor (unless he was a constrictor or venomous) was to take him by the tail and snap his head off.

John Street Church (Methodist) was dedicated in this year.

Dr. Jacob Rabineau was proprietor and operator of a floating swimming-bath, located in the season at foot of Warren Street. One day in the week was assigned for the exclusive use of females.



METHODIST CHURCH, JOHN STREET. 1768

James and John Harper, subsequently Harper & Bros., in this year printed and issued their first book, Locke's "Essay Concerning Human Understanding."

The Humane Society provided "apparatus for the recovery of drowned persons," as it was termed, and deposited one at Brooklyn Ferry House, one at City Dispensary, and one in a building at the corner of Greenwich (No. 296) and Duane streets. The notice which was attached to the front of the building was there until within a few years (1895).

The commissioners of the Almshouse established a soup house at corner of Cross Street (which ran from Chambers to Duane Street) and Tryon Row.

It was in July of this year that the remains of General Richard Montgomery, killed in the assault on Quebec in December, 1775, were transferred from Canada to St. Paul's chapel. Congress, in 1776, had voted the cenotaph to his memory that is set in the east front of St. Paul's. Governor Clinton notified Mrs. Montgomery of the time when the steamboat, the *Richmond*, bearing the general's body, would pass her country seat on the Hudson, and at that hour the constant widow, still mourning the loss of "her soldier" after a lapse of more than forty years, appeared upon the portico of her mansion. The *Richmond* approached and stopped; the military band on board played a Dead March; a salute was fired, and the boat bearing the precious burden passed on.



LUTHERAN CHURCH, CORNER WILLIAM AND
FRANKFORT STREETS

CHAPTER V

1819-1820.—CADWALLADER D. COLDEN, 1818-1820,
MAYOR

1819. POLITICAL parties at this time were divided into Republicans (Democrats), Federalists, and Clintonians. At the spring election the average Republican majority in the city was 2301.

May 31. The balance in the City Treasury was \$1850.34. The receipts from all sources for the year preceding were \$682,829.51, and the total expenses, \$671,319.83; equal to \$5.60 *per capita*. In 1884 the expenses were \$36.65, or full 6½ times as much.

February 23 General Andrew Jackson visited New York, and was presented with the freedom of the city. At an entertainment given in honor of his presence by the Fourteenth Regiment, he responded to a call by giving a complimentary toast to De Witt Clinton, which, as he was then surrounded by political enemies of Clinton, was not only the cause of confusion but elicited comment.

In this year Harman Street (East Broadway) was extended from Chatham Square to Grand Street, Avenue D was opened, and the sewer in Canal Street was finished.

By an official return there were, on April 26, only twenty-two licensed butchers in the city, paying a license fee of one dollar each.

May 25. A party left Tompkinsville, S. I., in a post stage, at 3 A. M., for Philadelphia, and returned at 8 P. M. This was an endeavor to illustrate the great despatch of the route. Fare, eight dollars each way.

A stage to Bloomingdale from the lower part of the city was established.

Jacob Barker and Samuel Hazard applied for a charter for the Exchange Bank, with a capital of one million dollars.

An ocean steamship company, with Cadwallader D. Colden, John Whettin, and Henry Eckford as trustees, was organized, with a capital of three hundred thousand dollars, with power to increase to five hundred thousand. In March of this year was built the steamer *Savannah*—of 380 tons, old measurement, said to have had folding water-wheels, which were taken out and laid on deck when not in use, presumably when she was under sail alone. She sailed to Savannah and thence to Liverpool, where she arrived on June 20, the first steam vessel to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

In July Rose Butler, a negro wench who had been convicted of arson (inasmuch as she had maliciously set fire to some combustible materials under a stairway, which was readily discovered and extinguished), was publicly hanged in Potter's Field, now the site of the Washington Parade Ground. A leading daily paper referred to her execution in a paragraph of five lines, without noticing any of the unnecessary and absurd details that are given at the present day in like cases; neither was her dying speech recorded, much less transmitted to other countries, as in the case of a recent execution in England.

In August a case of yellow fever occurred in the vicinity of Old Slip, and, soon after, the disease became epidemic, so much so as to render necessary the removal of contiguous inhabitants and the closing of the infected area by a fence.

October 22. Thomas Cooper, the celebrated tragedian, appeared here. During the temporary closing of the Park Theatre, the Anthony Street Theatre, newly fitted and renamed the Pavilion, was reopened. At this house William Leggett appeared, in July, for the first time

on the stage. His success warranted but two or three appearances, yet at the Bowery Theatre, in 1826, he made another attempt, wherein he failed decisively. Leggett was an eminent critic and a close student of the drama, and had an eager desire for theatrical fame, but he did not possess the qualities required by the stage. Alike to a well-known municipal official who appeared much later, he was deficient in facial expression. West's circus was opened in Broadway between Grand and Howard streets, having a ring and a stage. It was opened on the 9th of September with "The Spy." Many years after its closing, the building, converted to a horse market under the style of Tattersall's, was one of the best-known places of the town.

Jacob Cram, who had opened a distillery in Washington Street, removed to the corner of Broadway and Canal Street, occupying the entire front on Canal Street to Cortlandt Alley. About the same time a company for furnishing warm baths was established in Chambers Street, the first and then the only one in New York. Bath race-course on Long Island was opened, and its officers gave notice that *faro*, *roulette*, "sweat-cloth," and like devices for gambling would not be permitted.

An *aéronaut* by the name of Guillé ascended in a balloon from Paulus Hook and, in accordance with the practice of the day, he detached the wicker basket in which he was seated and was arrested in his descent by the attached *parachute*. This was the first balloon ascension in America.

A piratical vessel was seen off Sandy Hook.

The advent of Easter Day, the notices of the churches, florists, etc., lead me to reflect upon the changes in customs, observances, etc., from the early period of these reminiscences, in addition to those previously noted. Thus: Lent and its services were then very indifferently observed. The service on Easter Day in some of the

Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches differed from the usual services only in the introduction of an anthem; flowers were not displayed either in churches or private dwellings; in fact, the contribution of all the florists, possibly two in number, would not have been equal to the usual display in any one church at this time. "Easter bonnets" and cards were unknown, and colored eggs were limited to schoolboys, who, with the aid of the cooks in their families, were enabled to produce some. For a few weeks during the periods of Easter and Paas, the cracking of eggs by boys supplanted marbles, kite-flying, and base-ball.

December 21. At the corner of Broadway and Cortlandt Street, a personal encounter occurred between James Stoughton, the Spanish Vice-consul, and Robert M. Goodwin, a brother of Captain Charles G. Ridgeley, U. S. N.; the latter having had his name changed, to become the recipient of a legacy left upon that consideration. Goodwin had been captain of a privateer during the Spanish war, and Stoughton had had him arrested and sent to Ludlow Street jail on the charge of piracy. Meeting as above, and after personal charges and invectives, Stoughton struck Goodwin and a struggle ensued. Goodwin having a sword cane, the blade of which became exposed, he struck Stoughton, who fell and soon after expired. Goodwin was tried and in the early part of the following year acquitted. In 1836 Captain (then Commodore) Ridgeley gave me a recital of the affair, and of his summary action upon a negro who waited upon him at the City Hotel in bed, and offered to give testimony in vindication of his brother, if he was paid for it. Public opinion was very much divided upon the guilt of Goodwin.

Joseph Rodman Drake published his "Culprit Fay" in this year.

George W. Browne, who failed as a grocer in the Bowery, opened the Auction Hotel at 239 Water Street,



SHAKESPEARE HOTEL, CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STREETS

where viands of all kinds were well and cleanly served—meats, etc., at one shilling per plate, puddings and pies sixpence per cut, and liquors sixpence per glass. He was the pioneer in this class of eating-houses. In the course of years he realized a sum that enabled him to pay all his old creditors, principal and interest. At the southwest corner of Fulton and Nassau streets there was a resort, known as the Shakespeare Hotel, essentially a restaurant, kept by a Mr. Thomas Hodgkinson, who had previously kept a restaurant at 53 Nassau Street, and in 1825 he was succeeded by his son-in-law, James C. Stoneall, who was an exceptionally courtly man, an attentive and obliging landlord, and approved caterer; so much so that his house was unquestionably the most popular one of the period.

A well-known resort for “things of use and things of sport”—to quote from his ingenious catalogue—was a store at 305 Broadway, kept by Joseph Bonfanti (in 1818 at 20 Chatham Street), who was familiar not only to all of that day, but much later. He committed suicide years afterward.

John Charraud, an *émigré*, or, more properly, a refugee, from the island of Hayti after the revolution there, opened a dancing-school at 47 Murray Street; he subsequently gave his “publics” at the City Hotel, and divided the honor of the Terpsichorean art with Berrault, previously referred to. Waltzing at this time had not been introduced.

A well-recognized character of the day was a mulatto who followed the business of coat-scouring, known as “Dandy” Cox. He drove a rather stylish two-wheeled business vehicle, and sometimes a Stanhope with a negro “tiger” behind; was always very well and even fashionably dressed, usually in a green jockey-coat with brass buttons. His wife, at such evening parties as her lord and herself gave to their many acquaintances, was in the

habit of retiring several times during the evening and reappearing in an entire change of dress.

This is the first year in which I saw maple sugar. It was sold in confectioneries, its look in no wise inviting, from the smoke being permitted to enter into or upon it in process of boiling the sap; very dark in color and not agreeable in taste. It was some years afterward before it was improved in manufacture, and many years before it was introduced in such a quantity as to become of general domestic use in cities and an article of merchandise.

The newspapers were delivered by carriers; "Extras" were unknown; and an occurrence after the printing of a paper which seemed worthy of especial advice was put in a slip, as it was termed, and posted on a bulletin; others being mailed to editors in neighboring cities.

There were several gentlemen residing in the lower part of the city who were frequently seen walking up Broadway, Greenwich Street, or the Bowery shouldering a gun, and followed by their dogs, on the way to the suburbs for the shooting of woodcock, English snipe, and rabbits—as the Lispenard Meadows, Tompkins Square, Broadway from Forty-sixth Street to the North River; Fifth Avenue at Thirty-second Street, and Second and Third avenues from Ninetieth Street to One Hundred and Third Street; and the low land from Sixteenth Street to Twenty-third Street and Sixth to Ninth Avenue.

The census of the year gave 119,657 inhabitants, including 11,764 aliens and 250 slaves.

Robert R. Livingston and Robert Fulton, who held a monopoly of steam navigation of the Hudson River, enjoined Robert L. Stevens from running his steamboat *Phoenix* upon it, whereupon he transferred her under his personal direction to Philadelphia; and this was the first coastwise navigation by steam. He gave me a recital of the passage and the operation of the vessel.

Overcoats—termed top-coats—were of drab cloth, made loose, and gathered in the back with a strap and buckle. Over the shoulders were capes, false or full; the former were one or two capes with pleats on the outer edge, purposed to represent capes; the others were full capes, overlapping each other by about an inch in width,



THE GRACIE HOUSE, HELL GATE

the whole fastened under the collar of the coat by buttons, in order that such a heavy incumbrance might be removed at pleasure.

Abraham Van Nest purchased the Warren House and ground, occupying an entire block, bounded by Fourth, Charles, Bleeker, and Perry streets, for \$15,000.

1820. The result of a census of the United States was announced as 9,625,734; of Boston, 43,893; Balti-

more, 62,627; New York, 123,706, and Philadelphia, 133,273—being nearly 10,000 in excess of New York.

In illustration of the value of improved real estate at this time, a house and lot No. 20 Wall Street, between William and Broad streets, was taxed \$60.20, one at No. 9 New Street, \$7.36, and one at 8 Park Place, \$31.50. Ex-Mayor Daniel F. Tiemann's father and uncle leased twenty-one lots on Twenty-third Street near Broadway at \$3.00 per annum. They had previously leased on Fifth Avenue, Nineteenth and Twentieth streets, sixty lots at \$50.00 per year. In 1840 a portion of the lots leased by them, 1820, on Fifth Avenue between Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets, was sold for \$27,000, and Arnold & Constable in 1868 paid \$375,000 for them.

March 8 the New York *American*, published and edited by Charles King, was established at 10 Broad Street. The New York Lead Works began operations in Broadway near Art Street (Astor Place); Broadway at this point was unpaved.

Robert Swartwout, Alderman, proposed to enlarge the Park by extending it to Ann, Beekman, and Nassau streets, so as to make it as nearly square as practicable.

State and Charter offices, and the incumbents thereof, were held in much higher esteem than they are at the present time. This cannot be better shown than by the circumstance that for the election of the year in the First Ward of the city, such men as Isaac Pearson, Peter H. Schenck, and Augustus Wynkoop, were appointed inspectors, and Gulian C. Verplanck, Samuel B. Romaine, Reuben Munson, Robert R. Hunter and others of like stamp were elected to the Assembly.

In this year Henry Eckford built at his yard in Brooklyn, near the Navy Yard, the first veritable steamer, the *Robert Fulton*, as in contra-distinction to a steamboat, that is, she was a full- or square-rigged ship.

May 25. The Park Theatre was destroyed by fire; the

origin of it was assigned to the lodging of inflammable wadding in one of the flies, from the discharge of fire-arms in a piece termed "The Siege of Tripoli," written by Mordecai M. Noah, the editor of the *Advocate*, the leading Republican (Democratic) paper of the day. The Pavilion, in Anthony Street, was immediately leased and opened by the management of the Park.

The service of the North River Steamboat line to Albany was two round trips per week, fare six dollars each way.

Peter Cooper opened a grocery store in the Bowery, corner of Stuyvesant Street. About this year he removed his house, later known as the Cooper Mansion, located on the present site of the Bible House on Eighth Street between Third and Fourth avenues, to its present site on Fourth Avenue, corner of Twenty-eighth Street.

Mr. Cooper directed the taking down of the structure, and the marking of each essential part, so that it might be put up in its proper place in the progress of the reconstruction.

No citizen of New York has made a more enduring impression upon the city of his birth than Mr. Cooper. He was inherently a philanthropist, and firm in his convictions. In illustration, when his son, Edward Cooper, was a candidate for the State Senate, I was waited upon by a delegation of Germans to introduce it to the candidate for the purpose of ascertaining his views upon the proposed change in the temperance laws. When we reached his residence, he being absent, Mr. Cooper responded for him, firmly announcing his opposition to any extension of the laws whereby the evils of intemperance might be advanced. He took an active part in the conduct of the Public School Society and in the transfer to the Board of Education, of which he was one of the first Commissioners. He was on the committee of the Board of Aldermen who introduced the Croton water.

His foundation of the Cooper Union will perpetuate his memory as the chief benefactor of the city during his day and generation. He lived to see all his ideas for the public benefit accomplished, and died at the ripe age of ninety-two, beloved and regretted by the whole people of the city which he loved so well.

As lotteries, under certain regulations as to the drawings, which were had upon the esplanade in front of the City Hall, in the presence of an alderman, were authorized by law, there were many offices in the city, notably one at the southwest corner of Broadway and Park Place kept by Aaron Clark, a much reputed citizen, who in 1837 was elected Mayor. Few things exhibit more clearly the development of the public conscience than the change of feeling concerning lotteries. Even at a period considerably later than the date now under consideration, these enterprises were in no disfavor, and many persons yet engaged in active life can remember when lotteries were an occupation of some of the best citizens of this and neighboring communities, men of integrity and piety. Indeed, not long before our date, grants by legislatures of lottery privileges as a means of raising money for founding churches were by no means infrequent. Now, such is the change of sentiment that the last lottery has been expelled from the country; even our easy-going fellow-citizens of Louisiana (largely of Latin origin) resolving to banish it. The retrospect of a long life must lead one, however disposed by the laws of human nature to be *laudator temporis acti*, to the conclusion that, at least in some particulars, the world is improved since he came into it.

In illustration of the difference in the consideration given to cold drinks in 1819, and at the present time, it should be noted that the Humane Society issued a proclamation to the citizens, warning them against the injurious use of cold water. "Cold water" at that day, and for

many years afterward, was that drawn from a street pump; the use of ice for domestic purposes, as before observed, was unknown. So injurious was the use of this "cold" (pump) water declared to be, that persons indulging in it were advised first to wet their foreheads and wrists. In some schools and factories the water was tempered with molasses, or slightly with elixir of vitriol.

May 31. The ship of the line *Ohio* was launched from the Navy Yard, Brooklyn, and as she was larger than any vessel that had been launched in the United States up to that time, the attendance of persons exceeded that at any public exhibition that had ever occurred, and the day was made a general holiday.

In August yellow fever was epidemic in Philadelphia, and the Mayor of this city, Cadwallader D. Colden, on the 18th issued a proclamation, forbidding the entrance into New York of any person who had been in the former city within thirty days. This, however, was moderated on the 29th inst. to ten days, and on the 17th of October it was revoked.

In this month a boat-ferry was established from foot of Spring Street to Hoboken, and the mail stage between this city and West Farms was robbed in open day.

Stratford Canning, of England, visited the city. He was shown its different institutions, and on the 20th of September the fire department with its entire plant assembled in the Park, where a light had been set upon a tripod of elevated ladders, and at a signal from Thomas Franklin, the chief engineer, streams of water from engines were directed upon it.

The first religious paper appeared; the New York *Observer*, edited by Sidney E. and Richard C. Morse.

October 18. The *Advocate*, edited by Mordecai M. Noah, published a notice of a man with a hand-organ, accompanied by a woman, as having appeared in the public streets, and the question was asked, Who are they?

November 20. Edmund Kean, the great English tragedian, arrived here, and in consequence of the destruction of the Park Theatre by fire in the May previous, he appeared at the Anthony Street Theatre, a very humble structure in that street (Worth), near Broadway. He opened in "Richard III." His last appearance in New York was in the same character at the Park Theatre in December, 1826, he having come to this country for the second time late in 1825.

December 23. The official assize of bread was seventy ounces, for 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents; flour at \$4.60 per barrel. The weight at the present day (1894) for a like sum, with flour *computed at a like price*, should be forty ounces, whereas it is but sixteen ounces, or less than one-half.

About this period a Mr. Laurent Salles, who had been a glove-maker, and who became a merchant at 136 Water Street, was afflicted with such an insatiable appetite that he dined at two or more places at about the same hour. On one occasion Mr. Niblo, who had but lately taken the Bank Coffee House, corner of Pine and William streets, and had but few boarders, provided for them in the early spring of the year a leg of lamb and some green peas (peas in those days were not brought here either by rail or steamer), and as the table was open to the public, Mr. Salles walked in, seated himself, and commenced upon the lamb and peas; the other parties uninterruptedly looking on in amazement. When he had finished all, he arose and asked Mr. Niblo what was the price. "Seventy-five cents, sir, but I never wish to see you again."

The Agricultural Society, for the purpose of stimulating the making of fine butter, gave public notice to persons in the habit of bringing their butter, either to the Fly or Washington Market, that they would award three silver prizes to those presenting the best, to be adjudged by a committee of the Society. This continued for several years, and was the occasion of an improvement in the

article. In connection with this, Thomas F. Devoe, in his valuable history of the markets and butchers of the city, recites that one morning a wealthy farmer, who was generally known as a very close shaver, or, in other words, as fond of cheating whenever he had a chance, brought his butter done up in pound rolls. This was when it was scarce and worth two and ninepence, and had a quick sale, which no doubt had induced him to scant the weight in each roll. Unexpectedly the weigh-master saw his butter opened for sale (which the farmer could not quickly cover out of sight), when he prepared his test scale to weigh it; while doing so, the farmer slipped a guinea out of his vest-pocket, and while the weigh-master's back was turned, thrust it into the top roll, as he thought, unperceived by any one. The roll was taken up, and it weighed full weight, which satisfied the weigher without weighing any other. While he was putting up his scale, a Quaker gentleman, who had been standing off a little distance and had seen the whole transaction, came up and enquired the price of his butter. "Three shillings," said the farmer. "Put me up that roll in my kettle," says the Quaker, pointing to the "guinea roll." To which the farmer replied: "I have that roll sold to a friend." "No, thee has not," responded the Quaker, "thee can give thy friend another roll, if they are all good and weigh alike"; and turned to question the weigh-master, who said to the Quaker: "He was entitled to the roll, or any roll he chose to take, if they were priced to him." With this the Quaker took up the guinea roll and placed it in his kettle, then laid down three shillings; and as he was going, he coolly told the farmer: "Thee will not find cheating always profitable."

Macomb's dam (see pp. 78-79) was designed, by the operation of automatic flood-gates, to arrest the water from the East River at full tide (as it flows before that of the North), and then, as it receded, the closing of

these gates would impound the water between the dam and Kingsbridge above, at which point like flood-gates and a forebay led the receding water to operate a flour mill (see illustration, p. 49); but the removal of the dam (1833) rendered the impounding of the water inoperative.

A recital of the dress of boys, the manner of obtaining it, and the absence of their conveniences and comforts at this period compared with that of the present day, may appear overdrawn, but I write from personal and painful experience, and aptly add, *quæque ipse miserrima vidi*.

Upon referring to my notes of the dependence of boys upon their own resources for instruments of sport I see that I have omitted, among many others, that their footballs were made with a bladder purchased from a butcher and covered by a neighboring shoemaker; and upon referring to this and to my preceding record of the customs, dress, etc., etc., at this period of time, I am reminded of the following lines of Pope:

“ In words and fashions, the same rule will hold,
Alike fantastic, be they new or old;
Be not the first, by whom the new are tried,
Or yet the last to lay the old aside.”

It is quite probable that the cold bedrooms, the wet feet, in the absence of rubber boots and overshoes, may have led to the survival of the fittest, and many may have fallen by consumption; yet we were not exposed to the baneful effects of the sudden change from heated rooms to the outer air, as in the present day.

In default of hall-stoves, which were not introduced until the use of anthracite coal became general (1830), and of hot-air furnaces, which were not in use until many years after (fully as late as 1850), warming-pans to heat bed-clothes, and foot-stoves for the feet, were much used by elderly persons in the winter season, even to the

taking of the stoves to church. Of these warming-pans there is a legend that a well-known and enterprising merchant of an Eastern city sent, amongst other goods, in a shipment to the West Indies, some of these articles, which were received by the planters with surprise and amusement. Discovering an use for them, however, they bought them, took off the covers, and, as they were of brass, used them as dippers of cane-juice and molasses.

He was not alone in shipments to the West Indies, for it is historical that Eastern merchants purchased Baltimore clippers, a class of vessel (foretopsail schooners) designed for speed, to be used for transporting fruit or oysters, and especially for slaves and like service involving despatch; but as for general traffic, it was well said of them, their capacity being disproportionate to their cost of maintenance, "they would make a rich man poor, and a poor man a beggar." These same men fitted these vessels for the coast of Africa, for the alleged purpose of procuring "bone and ivory," but they were sometimes captured by British cruisers, and if before they had reached the Coast, upon being examined they were found to have a slave-deck and an undue quantity of water-casks and corn-meal on board, while, if captured after leaving the Coast, the "bone and ivory" were in the form of negro men and women. The deaths of the slaves from their confinement in the fœtid air in the hold of the vessel were so frequent that the man-eating shark of the West Indies, Gulf of Mexico, etc., is said to have followed from the Coast in the wake of slave-ships. "Extremes meet" is a common and frequently a truthful aphorism, as illustrated in this case; for the descendants of these men were initiative in the suppression of slavery in this country, performing therein an act of expiation of the "thriftiness" of their ancestors, and some redemption of their social status.

St. Patrick's Church was then surrounded by primitive trees, and a fox was killed in the churchyard.

In this year were founded the Apprentices' Library and the Mercantile Library. The latter was organized at meetings convened for the purpose in November, and began its service of the public early in 1821.

The population of the city at the close of the year was 123,706.



MILL ROCK, HELL GATE

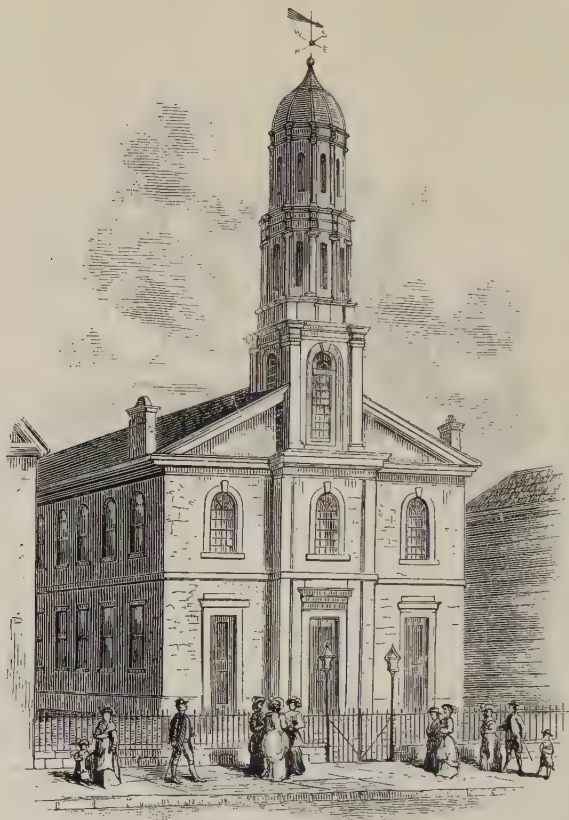
CHAPTER VI

1821-1822.—CADWALLADER D. COLDEN, 1821; STEPHEN ALLEN, 1821-1822, MAYORS

1821. IN this year John Randall, Jr., completed his maps of the avenues and streets of the city as approved by the Commissioners in 1809.

In January a fire destroyed a great number of wooden buildings occupying the premises on Fulton, Front, and South streets, and Fulton Market was erected thereon, to replace the Fly Market at Maiden Lane, which was insufficient in area and inconvenient in its location. During that month snow was so deep in the streets that the chief engineer of the Fire Department issued an order permitting the members of two fire-engine companies to operate but one, in order that they should be better enabled to draw one engine through the streets. The cold was intense. On the 21st of January the North River from the Battery up was so wholly frozen over that many thousand persons crossed from the foot of Cortlandt Street to Paulus Hook (Jersey City). On the 25th foot passengers crossed the East River to Brooklyn and to Governor's Island; on the 26th a boat was brought up from Staten Island on the ice, and persons walked to Staten Island from Long Island. Anthracite coal was first introduced in furnaces this winter—an appropriate time.

February 12 the Mercantile Library of the City of New York opened at 49 Liberty Street, being removed, in 1826, to Cliff Street. In this year the Black Ball



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WALL STREET, NEAR BROADWAY

Line, hence to Liverpool (see p. 45), added four vessels to its fleet. The ship *Sea Fox*, hence to Charleston, was capsized off Sandy Hook, and the crew of a passing vessel, several days afterward, visited the wreck as it lay bottom up, and becoming aware of the existence of persons in the forecastle, they cut a hole in the bottom and drew out four seamen.

Public feeling on the lottery question was made evident by an Act of the Legislature providing that new lotteries were not to be granted after the engagements of those then in existence had been fulfilled.

The North River Bank was chartered, with the condition that it gave Robert, John, and Samuel Swartwout assistance to develop their scheme, originating in 1819, to convert into arable land the meadows on the east side of the Hackensack River, north of Snake Hill, and it compromised with them for the sum of fifty thousand dollars. The Swartwouts prosecuted this enterprise with great diligence and persistence, employing in it all the capital they owned or could borrow. They constructed many miles of embankment and ditches, reclaiming about fifteen hundred acres, but the enterprise failed, and its projectors lost all. Other efforts of similar character have since proved to be unfruitful; notably an elaborate attempt made by Pike, the Cincinnati distiller, somewhere in the sixties.

The large double house, No. 39 Broadway, built in 1786 by General Alexander Macomb and occupied by Washington as President, was occupied in this year by Mr. C. Bunker as a hotel and known as the Mansion House.

The Bloomingdale Asylum, begun in 1818, was opened on May 7 in this year. The Deaf and Dumb Asylum, incorporated 1817, was located on Madison Avenue and Fiftieth Street, the present site of Columbia College (1895), first occupied by Columbia in 1857. It was the first asylum for mutes in the United States.

Twelve lots of ground in Greenwich Street, at the Albany Basin, foot of Liberty Street, sold for \$47,800.

In consequence of an issue between the Grocers and Auctioneers of the city, 234 of the former signed an agreement not to purchase any other than damaged or perishable goods at auction for a period of six months from the 1st of January.

Vauxhall Garden was at this time a place of very general resort for residents of the upper portion of the city. It occupied a considerable space between the Bowery and Broadway, Fourth and Art streets (Astor Place), surrounded by a board fence, with the main entrance at about the middle, on the Bowery (Fourth Avenue) side. The fence was lined within with boxes, or rather stalls, each containing a narrow table with seats for two persons at each side, at which tables light refreshments were served. The garden contained walks, trees, shrubs, flowers, etc., and in the centre was a large building in which theatrical performances were given, with interludes of songs, dances, etc. The Astor Library now occupies part of this site. The beginning of Vauxhall was, so early as 1799, under the enterprise of a Frenchman named Delacroix, but I learn it was in 1807 that it assumed the condition of garden and theatre according to the description here given. At a later date it became a favorite place of public meetings, etc., and finally disappeared about 1848 or 1849, soon after the Astor Place riot.

In May Henry Wallack first appeared in New York, at the Anthony Street Theatre (the Park being in ruins). He was in high favor with our public for years, as a most effective actor in all-round parts. He was at one time stage manager of the National Theatre under his brother James W. His last appearance was in the autumn of 1858, as *Falstaff*. His wife, a person of singular loveliness, first appeared also in May of this year as a dancer, but soon adopted the drama, and remained attached to the Park Theatre for some ten years.

September 1. The New Park Theatre was opened; the poetical address on the occasion was written by Charles Sprague, the well-known Boston banker and man of letters. The new house had room for an audience of twenty-four hundred; the stage measured forty-five by seventy feet.

September 25 Peter Richings appeared here for the first time on any stage, as *Henry Bertram* in "Guy Mannering." He proved to be an effective actor.

Junius Brutus Booth arrived in this country at Norfolk, Va., and made his first appearance at Richmond. October 5 he first presented himself in New York, as *Richard III.* He returned to England, but came here again early in 1824, and was at the Park, and afterward at the Chatham Garden Theatre and at the New York (Bowery), where he became a great favorite. In 1843 he played his last engagement at the Park ; his last performance in New York, however, was so late as the autumn of 1851. He died in November, 1852.

At theatres at this period, and for some years afterward, it was customary for some of the actors to favor the audience with a song, and on the occasion of a benefit to Miss Johnson, who was a favorite with the public, eight songs and one duet were given, together with a Scotch and Turkish dance. In this season a summer garden, with an improvised theatre for the patronage of colored persons, was opened, where "*Richard III.*," "*Othello*," and like pieces were presented by a colored company.

Hoboken at this date, and for many years after, certainly as lately as 1840, was of a summer day the favored resort of our own citizens seeking fresh air, green fields, and shady walks ; and when I reflect upon the character of the company that visited the grounds bordering upon the river, and the perfect impunity with which young ladies could visit them, the conviction is forced upon me that, however much we have advanced in science, manufactures, learning, and wealth, the character, tone, manners, and morals of our general society have most signally and regretfully depreciated.

April 10 the British Consul removed the remains of Major André from Tappan to England, pursuant to

a request made by the British Government and the permission which of course was given by the authority of this country.

In May William Niblo, proprietor of the well-known public-house at 45 Pine Street (southwest corner of Pine and William streets), which he opened in 1814, opened what was known as the Mount Vernon residence, about Seventieth Street, east of Third Avenue, as a hotel and grounds, and termed it "Kensington." It became a very popular resort for many years.

June 24 there was caught at the tail of the dam at Fire Place, L. I. (Carman's), by Mr. Samuel Carman, a trout or a salmon—it was never decided which it was—that measured three feet in length, seventeen inches around, and weighed thirteen pounds eight ounces.

In consequence of the growing frequency of Sunday excursions in steamboats, the clergy of the city entered upon a crusade against them. At a meeting by them at the City Hall, for the purpose of expressing the sense of the community, it was declared there were fully five thousand persons present, and upon the clergy essaying an organization, they were voted down; General Robert Bogardus was elected chairman and William T. McCoun (late Vice-chancellor) secretary. The meeting then expressed its disapprobation of the interference of the clergy.

The speed of steamboats of the day was very low, ranging from six to nine miles per hour. The smaller boats, to ports on Long Island Sound, could not always stem an adverse tide in Hell Gate, and, as illustrative of the tediousness of the passage, I note that the owners of a number of steamboats furnished two thousand volumes of books for the library of their boats.

In August of this year Frances ("Fanny") Wright first opened her views on social conditions; and about the same time John C. Symmes first published his theory of

the existence of a passage at the North Pole leading to the centre of the earth. The views of Symmes were very severely and also jocosely referred to by all the public prints, and the alleged opening was termed Symmes's Hole.

September 3 a very severe gale occurred along the entire seacoast, which from its severity and the destruction of vessels and property was for many years remembered and referred to as "the September gale." The intensity of it occurred at low water, otherwise the destruction in this city would have been much greater. In some instances small vessels, as brigantines and schooners, were left high and dry on the piers, instead of alongside of them.

On the 8th there were some isolated cases of yellow fever.

The shot-tower of Mr. Youle at the foot of East Fifty-fourth Street was constructed in this year. On the 9th of October, when nearly completed, it fell to the ground, but was rebuilt.

On the 12th Mrs. Holman, who afterward became Mrs. Major-general Sandford, first appeared at the theatre. October 30 Mr. Cowell, a comedian from England, made his first appearance at the Park, and old New-Yorkers will thank me for reminding them of the pleasure they have enjoyed in witnessing his inimitable performances.

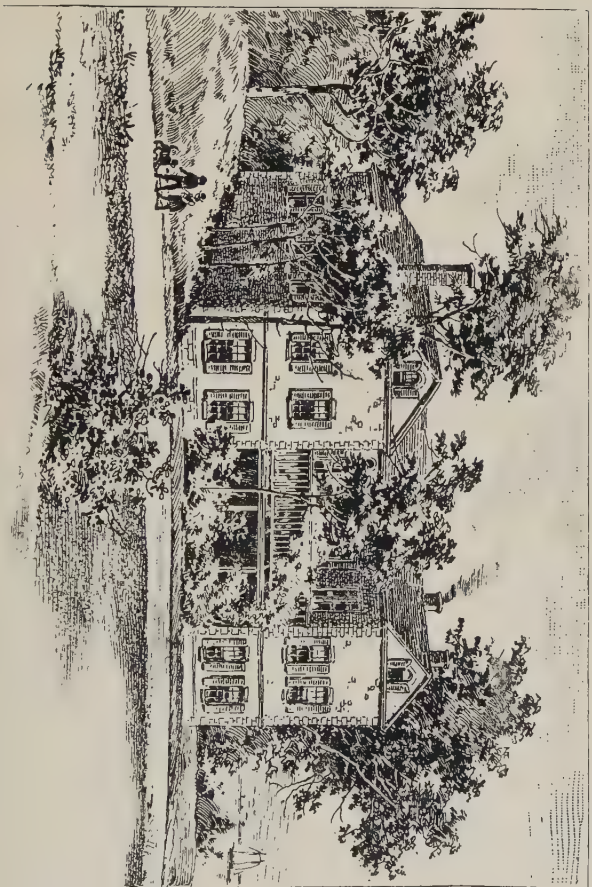
In November Beekman Street was extended from Pearl Street to the river, and the pier at its foot was known as Crane wharf, and on the 20th of this month Fulton Market was opened for business. In the same month one of the Brooklyn Ferry sail-boats was capsized by collision and a passenger drowned.

In the absence of railroads, and with the few steam-boat routes, the travel of the period continued to be principally by stage-coaches, and the accidents involving life and limb were so frequent that injuries to travellers,

when their number at that day is compared with that of the present, was far in excess of injuries by railroads and steamboats. In November the mail stage hence to Philadelphia was overturned near New Brunswick, and Mr. James W. Wallack received a comminuted fracture of one of his legs. So severe was the condition of it that amputation was saved only by his positive resistance to the operation. It was necessary, however, to encase it in a tin envelope. Valentine Mott, the eminent surgeon of the time, attended him.

December 31. The iron railing for the Park arrived from England, and in order to avoid a duty on the manufacture it was complete only in parts. Four marble pillars to the gateways at its southern terminus were erected and surmounted with scroll iron work supporting lanterns, and also made the depository of coins, etc. Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D., delivered an address on the occasion.

At this time, and for many years after, there were but few places of evening amusement for young men and boys. There were not, as at a later period, horse, dog, and flower shows, pugilistic exhibitions, anatomical and dime museums, billiard and pool rooms, or "free-and-easies," but one theatre, a circus, only three billiard-rooms, and but one bowling alley west of the Bowery, while even Scudder's Museum would not bear repeated attendances; there was such a void of amusements that young men and boys were glad to avail themselves even of an evening book auction, and, as a result, there were many of these, and they were well attended. One in Fulton Street near Broadway was continuously in operation throughout the year. The absence of public libraries induced circulating libraries, of which there were several, where books could be obtained by quarterly, half-yearly, and yearly subscriptions. A leading one of these was the Minerva, on Broadway, between Warren and Chambers streets.



COLONEL WM. S. SMITH'S HOUSE, SIXTY-FIRST STREET, NEAR AVENUE A

The Red Star Line, hence to Liverpool on the 20th of each month, was established by Byrnes, Trimble & Co.

David Dunham, a merchant, had the steamship *Robert Fulton* built, intended to ply hence to New Orleans. After some service she was sold to the Brazilian Government, her machinery removed, and then she was fitted and equipped as a second-class frigate.

December. "The Spy," by James Fenimore Cooper, appeared in this month. This was Cooper's second work, the first being a somewhat conventional and crude representation of English society. But in "The Spy" Cooper took up new ground, laying his scene in his own country and among the events of the Revolution. This resulted in the beginning of his great popular success (not yet wholly abated), and really in the beginning also of fictitious literature in America. Properly to understand the exceeding interest which "The Spy" excited at the time of its production, modern readers must remember that the close of the Revolutionary War was then little further removed than is now the beginning of the late War of the Rebellion. Much speculation was indulged concerning the original of the character of Harvey Birch, the patriotic spy. Captain H. L. Barnum wrote a volume entitled, "The Spy Unmasked" (J. & J. Harper, 1828; reprinted by the Fishkill *Weekly Times*, 1886), dedicated to Cooper, in which Birch was identified with Enoch Crosby, a resident of the present Putnam County, on the border of Westchester—the "neutral ground" of the Revolution. In consequence of this, Crosby was warmly received on his appearance in some public places in New York, and acknowledged these attentions in a letter published in the *Journal of Commerce* of December 27, 1827. Crosby died June 26, 1835, in his eighty-sixth year. It must be added that Cooper, in the preface to an edition of "The Spy" published in 1849, referred to "several accounts of different persons

who are supposed to have been in the author's mind" as the original of Harvey Birch, and declared that he never knew the identity of the person by him reproduced under that character, although some of the chief incidents connected with the character in the tale were undoubtedly historic.

So well was "The Spy" received that it was soon followed by others; notably, "The Pioneer" and others of the "Leather Stocking" series. When the "Red Rover" appeared, I succeeded, on a Saturday evening, in obtaining a copy at the circulating library I patronized, and when the church bells on the following morning rang for nine o'clock, as they did at that time, I had just finished the last volume.

1822. Franklin Market, at the foot of William Street (Old Slip), was erected and opened.

Hogs were permitted still to run at large in the streets, although the practice was objected to by most of the citizens, and the frequent mortifying references thereto of Boston and Philadelphia editors added to the opposition; yet the common opinion that the hogs were the best scavengers supported, for many years after, the indifference to the practice shown by the Common Council. In support of this inaction it is to be considered that at this period all garbage and refuse matter from dwellings was thrown into the street. Some years after (1825), an ordinance of the Common Council authorized the furnishing and equipment of a cart and operators to arrest swine in the streets. The advent of the cart and the endeavor to arrest the swine were attended with such forcible opposition by men and boys that the ordinance necessarily became a dead letter, until the *amour propre* of our citizens, despite the unpopularity of the cart, was aroused, the enormity of the practice was realized, and swine were removed from the streets.

Piracy in the West Indies still continued, and our Navy was taxed to fit and equip a sufficient number of small cruisers to suppress it. In this service the late Commodore Lawrence Kearney, then a lieutenant, distinguished himself, having captured 17 piratical vessels and 220 men.

In February the merchants of the city convened for the purpose of asking for a floating light off Sandy Hook,



BROADWAY, CORNER OF GRAND STREET, 1822

also for the formation of an association to construct a Merchants' Exchange.

In March a line of sailing vessels was established hence to Charleston.

April 22 the packet ship *Albion*, hence to Liverpool, was lost off Tuskar Island, with her captain, Williams, and forty-four others, being the greater part of her passengers and crew. As this was the first disaster of the

kind, and as the population of the city was small, the occurrence was a leading topic of conversation among all classes, and a subject of natural reference for some years afterward. I add here that the packet ship *Liverpool*, Captain William Lee, Jr., hence to Liverpool, was lost in the ice on July 25 of this year, on her first voyage. The loss of life occasioned by the stranding of the *Albion* led many persons to design life-preservers, the first that was submitted to the public being an adaptation of an ordinary mattress, patented by a vender of beds and bedding, a Mr. Jackson in Pearl Street, who was long and well known as "Moccasin" Jackson, an eccentric character. He it was who first took a trotting horse to England from this part of the country. Mr. Stackpole of Boston had taken his horse, "Boston Blue," as early as 1818.

A drama based on Cooper's novel of "The Spy" was produced this year at the Park, from the pen of an intimate acquaintance and a well-known citizen, Mr. Charles P. Clinch. It was an excellent production and met with deserved acceptance from the public.

May 10 James Wallack appeared at the Park Theatre as *Captain Bertram* in "Fraternal Discord," a part that did not involve his standing, since he had not yet recovered from the effects of the fracture of his leg. Mr. Richings had then become a favorite stock actor at the Park Theatre, and he continued as such for many years afterward. Old New York will recur to him with pleasure. In June was opened the Chatham Garden, on Chatham Street, between Duane and Pearl, running through to Augustus Street (City Hall Place). It became very popular. At first it contained a saloon designed only for concerts and light dramatic works, but this was converted into a regular theatre in May ensuing. In July the City Theatre, Warren Street, near Broadway, was opened, under the auspices of Mrs. Battersby, a

sister of Mrs. Barnes. This house was closed at the end of August on account of the existence of yellow fever, but was reopened in November.

Tammany Hall, then at the corner of Park Row and Frankfort Street (see p. 33), was advertised by its proprietor as a very salutary location, being on high and open ground, and airy. The country house and grounds heretofore mentioned as Richmond Hill now became known as the Richmond Hill Garden, a place of public resort.

The State of Connecticut enacted a law regarding steamboats of a foreign state, the details of which I do not know, which prevented the *Connecticut* from trading hence to New Haven, and as a consequence she was put on the route hence to Newport and Providence; the time of travel, from New York to Boston, twenty-five hours. So enterprising and so hazardous an undertaking was this considered that a log of the boat's passages was published in full in the papers of the day. A line of packets hence to Havre was established in the summer, one to sail every two months, agents, Fox & Livingston, and also Crassous & Boyd.

In May the steamboat *Hoboken* was put upon the ferry to Hoboken, when the newspapers heralded her as a very fast boat, announcing that she would make the round trip every two hours.

In the early part of this year, at 86 Maiden Lane, Clark & Browne opened an eating-house, which for many years, alike to its predecessor, the Auction Hotel, was well known for the excellence of its cuisine and the moderate price of the viands. At that time the Spanish eighth of a dollar (12½ cents) was in circulation and was the price of a plate of meat. On one occasion a diner offered Mr. Clark a dime and two cents, which he refused, with the remark that the half cent kept his horse.

The wooden picket fence around the City Hall Park having been replaced with one of iron imported from

England, our iron manufactures not being then sufficiently advanced to compete with that country, trees were set out within the enclosure, and two well-meaning and liberal ladies provided rose-bushes, which were planted within the railing, and resisted frosts, the ruthless hand of time, and the wantonness of boys for more than a year. Boys were better behaved then than now.

A tread-mill was constructed and operated in the penitentiary by order of the Common Council. It was six feet in diameter and twenty-five feet in length; and by a connection with one end of the shaft, its power was utilized to grind corn. The custom of burying in Trinity churchyard was discontinued. St. Thomas's Church was built at the corner of Broadway and Houston Street (see p. 198). It was in this year that Congress ceded Castle Clinton (Castle Garden) to the city.

The great Northern mail was despatched and received but tri-weekly. The cost of transporting merchandise hence to Pittsburgh was \$9.50 per hundred-weight, the transit being wholly by teams.

The new Constitution of the State was adopted in February of this year, whereby there were several important changes. Slavery was abolished after July 4, 1827, though minors were not to be freed until 1830; the right of voting was given to negroes owning real estate to the value of \$250. Imprisonment for debt was abolished also, to take effect in May, 1832; military officers were to be elected instead of appointed by the Governor; and changes in the election laws were effected. The Sheriff, Register, Coroner, etc., were this year for the first time elected, under the provisions of the new Constitution. The election of military officers by their subordinates was a very popular provision and helped toward a great revival of the military spirit. It was not until 1843 that State arms were issued to the National Guard.

June 22. The *Albion* was established, a colonial and foreign weekly, published and edited by Dr. J. S. Bartlett at 37 William Street.

The month of August remains memorable for an outbreak of yellow fever and the extraordinary panic caused thereby, which depopulated the city. For more than a century the disease had been from time to time epidemic in New York (as might have been expected of a town wherein droves of swine fed upon garbage in the streets), notably in 1795, 1798, and frequently through the earlier years of this century, so that the inhabitants had acquired a habit of summer flitting to Greenwich Village and other like places then considered rural, distant, and safe from contagion, though now and long since involved in the city proper. The outbreak of this year, however, was of unusual proportions, and created unwonted terror among the citizens. Enough has been already written to preserve in memory the scenes and incidents of that disturbed and even awful time, and I shall not indulge in great freedom of reminiscence, though I cannot leave the subject unmentioned.

June 17. A case of yellow fever appeared in Lumber, near Rector Street, and the disease spread so rapidly that by the 26th the occupants of quarters below Wall Street were in headlong flight to Greenwich and other country districts. The public offices, the banks, insurance offices, and newspapers all shifted to what was then the upper part of Broadway or to Greenwich, which place became the scene of hurried building operations on a large scale. Mr. Devoe, in his admirable book before mentioned, quotes the Rev. Mr. Marcellus as telling him that "he saw corn growing on the present corner of Hammond (West Eleventh) and Fourth streets on a Saturday morning, and on the following Monday Niblo and Sykes had a house erected capable of accommodating three hundred boarders." Stores of rough boards were con-

structed in a day. What then was known as New York was almost wholly deserted, being fenced off at Wall, then at Liberty, and then at Fulton Street. The ferries from Brooklyn, Jersey City, and Hoboken transferred their landings to Greenwich. Three hundred and eighty-eight persons died from the infection, from which the city was not free until the last of October. Such, in pre-scientific days, were some of the effects of a strictly preventible disease.

The Park Theatre Company opened its autumn season at the Broadway Circus, near Grand Street, as being at a safe distance from the yellow fever in the city, and remained there until early in November, when the epidemic had ceased. November 7 Charles Mathews the comedian first appeared here, at the Park, with great success. His second engagement on his return in 1833 was less fortunate. He appeared for the last time in New York at the Park, in February, 1835.

On November 21 a match was made between the owner of the celebrated race-horse, "American Eclipse," owned by Mr. Van Ranst of this city, and "Sir Charles," owned by Colonel Johnson of the South, for twenty thousand dollars, to be run at Washington, D. C., on the appointed day. Colonel Johnson paid forfeit. So great was the interest in this race that it was arranged that by a series of express riders the result was to be borne to Paulus Hook, and, upon its reaching there, a white flag was to be displayed in the event of the Northern horse being victorious. In a race between them a few days afterward, "Sir Charles" was beaten.

"Paisley Place," between Sixth and Seventh avenues and Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets, consisted of a number of wooden houses, which were principally occupied by Scotch weavers, who operated hand-weaving. This row, which was erected during the yellow fever excitement, still remains, a visible relic of the agitated period of the summer of 1822.

In this year a well-known elderly gentleman, a resident of Broadway, jilted the sister of a man who was absent at the time, but who, upon his return, awaited the offender in Broadway, corner of Duane Street, and a little after high noon, when the street was well filled with pedestrians, gave him a very severe cowhiding.

The authorship of the Waverley novels was at this time frequently discussed; the general opinion, however, was in favor of Sir Walter Scott. I may remind my readers that it was not until the Theatrical Fund dinner of February 23, 1827, at Edinburgh, that Sir Walter, in reply to Lord Meadowbank's toast, openly avowed his authorship of these works, and up to that time the subject was surrounded with such mystery as very naturally to pique public curiosity.

The silt dredged from the slips was warped out in scows to an anchor in the river opposite to point of operation and there dumped in a manner for which some one has since claimed an invention.

The depth of the channels was held to be sufficient to admit of shallowing, it not being entertained that the volume of the sweepings of the streets, and that from the excavation of cellars, opening of streets, etc., would ever reach an excess of that required to fill our river fronts out to the bulkhead line, unmindful of the fact that the wash of the light material was borne away to be deposited on the shoals of our bays, and thus, by reducing the area and depth of water, reducing the tidal flow over the bar at Sandy Hook.



OLD STOREHOUSE AT TURTLE BAY

CHAPTER VII

1823-1824.—STEPHEN ALLEN, 1823, AND WILLIAM PAULDING, 1823-1824, MAYORS

1823. UNDER the new constitution the Mayor was appointed by the Common Council, and Stephen Allen was thus appointed.

Centre Market was opened in this year. The lower part of Fly Market, at foot of Maiden Lane, was taken down, from Pearl to South Street. In July, the widening of Maiden Lane was ordered. The Merchants' Exchange was incorporated by the Legislature. The area of the Battery was much enlarged by filling out to a rip-rap *enceinte*, which was surmounted by a coursed stone wall and a balustrade. The Potter's Field (Washington Parade, now Washington Square) was levelled; the use of it as a place of interment being abandoned in favor of a new plot of ground bought for the purpose, bounded by Fortieth and Forty-second Streets, Fifth and Sixth avenues—now occupied by the Reservoir and Bryant Park. This plot, containing 128 building lots, was purchased for \$8449. In the matter of public grounds, the necessities of the poor have greatly ministered to the advantage of their more fortunate brethren; Washington Square, Union Square, Madison Square, and Bryant Park, all owing their existence as pleasure-grounds to prior use as pauper burial-places. About this time an ordinance was enacted prohibiting the interment of human bodies below Grand Street, under a penalty of \$250.

The New York Gas Light Co. was incorporated, Samuel Leggett, President, this being the first introduction of illuminating gas in the country. The company

was given the exclusive privilege for thirty years of laying gas-pipes south of Grand Street. The first introduction of the gas in a house was in that of the President at 7 Cherry Street. I went to witness it.

A line of packets hence to London, sailing on the 1st of every month, was organized by John Griswold and Fish and Grinnell; followed by a line to Liverpool, sailing on the 16th of every month. Passengers between this port and Europe were so scarce that the packet ships were fitted only for a few, and on one occasion, within my knowledge, a lady desiring to meet her husband in England, applying for passage in one of the old or Black Ball line of Liverpool packets, was refused, as, she being the only woman, her presence would be inconvenient to the male passengers. Persons who venture now to encounter the gales and seas of the Northern Atlantic in steamers of ten or fifteen thousand tons' burthen, will probably be surprised to learn that the tonnage of the Liverpool and Havre packets did not reach four hundred. The *Edward Quesnel* was but 325, and the *Queen Mab* and *Don Quixote* were much less; I am of the conviction the tonnage was in both cases under 250.

In this year a stage ran from the Bull's Head, in the Bowery, to Manhattanville.

Samuel Woodworth founded the *Weekly Mirror* in 1822, and in this year joined George P. Morris and published the *New York Mirror and Ladies' Literary Gazette* at 163 William Street, removed in 1825 to No. 9 Nassau Street. Subsequently Woodworth retired, and Nathaniel P. Willis succeeded him.

F. Marquand, at No. 166 Broadway, opened the leading jewelry store in the city. There were reported in this year in the entire city, eighty-three churches, chapels, etc.; at this time (1894) the number given in the City Directory is 522. This is not a favorable proportion of increase, the churches having increased little more than

six-fold, for a population fifteen times as great. No doubt, however, the modern churches may be somewhat larger than those of that period. Christ Church (Episcopal), in Anthony Street near Broadway, was completed and consecrated in this year.

March 28 occurred a great gale, from the severity of which fifty-four vessels were stranded on the shores of Staten Island between the Kills and South Amboy. On the 30th, David Dunham, a prominent merchant and resident of this city, in company with Alderman Philip Brasher, was knocked overboard by the jibing of the boom of a sloop in which they were passengers on their way from Albany; the latter was rescued, but the former was drowned.

April 28, the steamboat *James Kent* of the North River Steamboat Co., destined for the route to Albany, was launched, and it was confidently announced that she would make the passage hence to Albany between sunrise and sunset.

A company was organized to recover the treasure sunk in the *Hussar* frigate above Hell Gate, and so confident were its officers that I have seen, at the home of one of the company, a number of the small cotton-cloth bags that were made to put the treasure in.

In consequence of the question of deciding upon some method by which the city could be furnished with an ample supply of pure water, the Manhattan Co. was called upon to report its capacity, which was officially notified as amounting to 691,200 gallons of water per day, involving a period of sixteen hours' pumping. The pumping power was given as that of two engines of eighteen horses each. The capacity of the reservoir was 132,690 gallons, connected with twenty-five miles of log pipes.

May 27, the great challenge horse-race, made the year preceding, between Mr. Van Ranst's famous horse

FLY MARKET, AT CORNER OF MAIDEN LANE AND FRONT STREET, 1822



"American Eclipse" and one to be named at the post by Colonel Johnson, occurred on the Union Course, Long Island. It was at four-mile heats, for twenty thousand dollars a side. Colonel Johnson named "Sir Henry," and he won the first heat, "hard held," at the termination of which the betting was three to one on "Sir Henry" for the second heat, and the well-known and eccentric John Randolph of Roanoke, Va., who was present and who had backed the Southern horse for a very considerable sum, tauntingly and repeatedly, in his peculiar voice, queried, "Where's Purdy?" Purdy had ridden "Eclipse" on nearly all, if not all, of his previous races, but did not ride him now. This was the first time "Eclipse" had ever lost a heat, and his backers expressed much dissatisfaction that Purdy had not ridden. The result of Randolph's taunts and the advice of the friends of Mr. Van Ranst and the party associated with him, resulted in Purdy's mounting for the second heat, and, to the delight of the North and the dismay of the South, he won it. Colonel Johnson was confined by illness in a house adjoining the course; he was appealed to, but his directions, and putting up the great trainer, Arthur Taylor, in place of the boy who rode the first two heats, were of no avail, the staying power of "Eclipse" was too much for his three-year-old competitor, and he won also the third heat and race. Time: first heat, 7 m. 37 s.; second heat, 7 m. 49 s.; third heat, 8 m. 24 s.; twelve miles from the score in 23 m. 50 s.

The interest in this race had been extending and accumulating for many months, heightened by the prestige of Colonel Johnson, who was called "the Napoleon of the Turf," and, notwithstanding that travel to the course, in default of railroads, was restricted to vehicles, horseback, and foot, and as the population of that day, compared with that of the present, was but one-fifteenth, the attendance was nearly if not fully equal to that at any of

the great racing events of the past year. It was estimated at fifty thousand. The city was filled with visitors from all parts of the Union, so that the hotels were unable to accommodate them.

Horse-racing at this period was conducted very differently, both on the track and outside of it, from that which was introduced upon the advent of the Jerome Park Association. There was but one race a day (a meeting being restricted to four days), at one, two, three, and four mile heats. The horses that were to contend were not run around the course just previous to starting, or "warmed up," as it is termed, and brought up to the post immediately after, but were simply walked or cantered for a short distance, not a quarter of a mile, and when at the post and in line were started by the tap of a drum in the hands of the president or a judge; starting was immediate, false starting seldom occurring. There were no *mutuel* or auction pools, or professional bookmakers. All bets were made between individuals, the money placed in the hands of a common friend or acquaintance.

I fix here a few particulars of the wondrous "Eclipse," a chestnut with a star, and white near hind foot; bred by General Nathaniel Coles, and foaled at Dosoris, Queens County, L. I., May 25, 1814; sold to Mr. Van Ranst in 1819. In 1820 and 1821 "Eclipse" stood as a common stallion, at \$12.50 the season. When put in training in the fall of 1821 there was much question of the policy of running him, from the opinion long entertained by sportsmen that service as a stallion unfits a horse for racing; but the event proved that, at least so far as "Eclipse" was concerned, the opinion was unfounded. The match with "Sir Henry" closed his racing career, as, in spite of further challenge from Colonel Johnson, he was withdrawn from the turf and put to service. "Eclipse" had "Duroc" for sire and for dam a "Messenger" mare.

In his veins was the blood of the celebrated English "Eclipse" and the Godolphin Arabian. Some years after this race (1833) Colonel Johnson became half owner of "Eclipse," and employed him for improvement of Southern racing stock.

June 14. A fire broke out in Noah Brown's ship-yard on the East River, afterward Brown & Bell's, by which several frames of ships on their stocks, and fire-engine No. 44, were destroyed. This fire, from its extent, was long remembered as "the ship-yard fire." I was present at it.

In this year, following the example of the boys of the period, I became a warm partisan of a fire-engine, and, following the very natural custom, it was the engine that was located the nearest to my residence. What the Fire Department, with 47 engines and 1200 men was then, and for many years afterward, even down to 1835, it will be difficult for me to convince those who knew it only from that period until it was reorganized in 1865 as the paid department of the present day. In illustration of the estimate in which its *personnel* was held by our citizens, it was their general custom, when a fire occurred at night, for such as dwelt contiguous thereto to invite the members of the company on duty near to their residence to enter it and partake of hot coffee and other refreshments; and no one instance can I now call to mind in which the confidence of the host was abused. In fact, I have witnessed more decorum shown on such an occasion than frequently is manifested in social entertainments. In illustration of this I give the following notice which appeared in a daily paper, after a fire in Broome Street: "The unexceptional deportment of these worthy recipients [firemen who had been invited to her home to partake of some refreshments] was an ample compensation to her who patiently waited upon them." The department, during the period above noted,

was as a body composed of well-known solid citizens, notably a great proportion of Quakers, and but that I decline to introduce the names of private persons, I could give a list of those of old firemen that would do honor to any institution, commercial, financial, or eleemosynary.

In illustration of the wide difference of the customs and means of the men and machines of this day, and that of the present, the engine and ladder-truck houses were locked, and, in some instances, the key was given to the custody of a neighbor; in others, each member had a key. In consequence of the infrequency of fires it was customary, up to about the year 1830, for the companies to assemble once a month for the purpose of exercising the engines, to prevent the valves becoming too dry and rigid from disuse for effective operation. This meeting was termed the "washing," and delinquents in attendance were fined twenty-five cents. Upon arrival at the engine-house on an alarm of fire, if in the night, a light was first to be obtained by the aid of a tinder-box, the signal lantern and torches lighted, and then the engine or truck was drawn by the members and such private citizens as volunteered to aid them; and, as the city was not districted, it was taken to the fire, however distant.

As wood was the general fuel, varied only by use of bituminous coal in some parlor grates, chimney fires were very frequent, the fine for which to a householder was five dollars; and as the amount collected was given to a fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of deceased firemen, the Fire Department had registers placed at several locations in the city where the occasion of a fire could be noted, and there was an official collector of the fines.

August 6. A bull-bait occurred at Paulus Hook (Jersey City), the animal being baited by bull-dogs. It was the first exhibition of the kind, and a very tame affair

compared with one where *bandilleros* and *picadores* attack, and an *espado* displays his courage and skill in subduing the animal, and a *matador*, if he is not dead, gives the *coup de grace* to the dying animal.

On the 15th of this month the first floating light was towed to its station off Sandy Hook. September 1 Thomas Hilson, a comedian from London, made his first appearance at the theatre to which he became afterward attached, and for many years was a popular member of its corps. About the same date occurred the first appearance on this stage of Henry Placide, who became one of the very first of public favorites and remains, in reputation, among the foremost of native comedians. At this time also first appeared in New York the admirable actress Mrs. Duff, sister of the first wife of Thomas Moore, the poet. She became eminent in her profession and was called "the queen of tragedy." She married a lawyer of New Orleans and retired from the stage. The theatre was not yet so well attended as theatres are now, although the price of admission was much less and ticket speculators were unknown. Hence, it became necessary for the manager to essay an awakening of the public by expedients, and in February of this year it was announced that a curtain of looking-glass was being constructed which was to replace the one of canvas; and soon after, a curtain of veritable looking-glass plates was constructed and fitted in place. Prices of admission, boxes, one dollar; pit (parquet), fifty cents, and gallery twenty-five cents.

In the winter of this year a party of gentlemen was invited one evening to the house of a well-known and public-spirited citizen, to witness the burning of anthracite coal in a parlor grate, and wonderful were the recitals of its success on the following day. It was said that not only it burned without making a flame, but created a mass of red-hot coals—so hot that when a sheet-iron cap

(blower) was put before the grate there was a great roar, the draft was so strong.

Tomatoes were about this time first essayed as edibles, for they had been grown in gardens only for the beauty of their fruit, termed "Love apples," or tomatoe figs, universally held to be poisonous. It was not until 1826 that I overcame the fear of being poisoned should I have the temerity to eat of them; and for a long period after they were only served stewed, and not canned until very many years after.

White handkerchiefs were worn by men only on special occasions, as when in full dress; at other times red silk was the prevailing material. It was not until this year that false collars to shirts were worn, and only by a few.

There were some other articles of men's wear that are worthy of record. Thus: instead of the single neckcloths, stiffeners, termed "puddings," were introduced; and soon after an article termed a "stock," composed of stiff, woven horsehair, fully three inches in width, buckled behind; and leather straps from the legs of pantaloons, buttoned at the sides, were worn under the boots.

James Murray, from Boston, on his way South put up at a sailors' boarding-house of a man named Johnson, who, ascertaining that the former had a bag containing several hundred dollars in specie, murdered him in his bed, and two days after dragged the body to Cuyler's Alley, leading from Water Street to the river between Coenties and Old slips, and left it there. He was soon after arrested, and on December 4 was indicted.

A second line to Havre was established, with Boyd & Hincken agents.

Grinnell, Minturn & Co. commenced a line to London with vessels of four hundred tons, leaving on the 1st of each month.

Classical schools at this time were Joseph Nelson's, Franklin Street, on the east side, near Broadway, one



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, BEEKMAN, NEAR CLIFF STREET

half of the building now (1895) standing; John Borland's in Broadway, corner of Dey Street; in 1822, Borland and Forrest, at 45 Warren Street, and John C. Slack, in Water Street; in 1823 at 223 Duane Street.

The school term, both in the country and city, was four quarters of twelve weeks each, with holidays in the former of two weeks each in spring and autumn, to enable boys to go home and procure changes of clothes suitable to the season. In the city, in *lieu* of the spring and fall

vacations, the entire month of August was given, and in both cases the Fourth of July, Evacuation Day (November 25), and Christmas to New Year's Day were the only additional vacations.

In November was given for the first time, at the Park Theatre, John Howard Payne's "Home, Sweet Home." Payne had appeared on the New York stage in February, 1809, when he was but sixteen years old, and a pupil of the venerable Dr. Nott's academy at Schenectady.

In this, or the following year, "Der Freischütz," in English, was given at the Park Theatre; the first opera, strictly so termed, that we had, as distinguished from English ballad operas. Up to this time our public knew only the English models.

Considerable increase of musical interest began to display itself, and in this year both the New York Choral Society and the New York Sacred Musical Society were formed. The first concerts of these societies were given in the following spring.

On an irregular plot, formed by Chambers, Collect, and Tryon Row, were located fire-engines 8 and 25, and a hook-and-ladder company. On Broadway, opposite Warren Street, there was located an engine and also a hose-cart No. 1.

1824. January 8, the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, there was a great military ball given at the Park Theatre, which was long known and referred to as the "Greek Ball," it being given in aid of the Greek fund. The design was that it should be as exclusive an affair as was practicable. It occurred, however, that a Mr. Oliver, a well-known barber, who plied his avocation at 27 Nassau Street (before referred to), became the happy possessor of a ticket—how it was not known, as the member of the Committee from whom it was procured did not acknowledge the delivery; and when the fact was made public, Oliver was offered various sums in

excess of the cost of the ticket, but he resolutely refused to part with it. The papers of the city referred to the matter, public curiosity became interested, and on the evening of the ball, every man who was set down from a carriage in front of the Theatre, and was not recognized by some one or more present, was hailed as "That's him!" "There he goes!" etc. Mr. Oliver in the meanwhile quietly and unobservedly walked in from the rear of the Theatre.

It was proposed by some enterprising citizens to remove the Bridewell and Jail to the North River and to construct two-story houses in the park fronting Chatham Street, as a source of revenue to the city. A petition was circulated asking that the "Jail liberties" should be extended over the whole county; they were then restricted to an area of 160 acres.

The use of anthracite coal was beginning to be generally introduced. Up to this period heavy merchandise had been bought and sold by the ton, hundredweight, quarter, and pound; but in this year the Chamber of Commerce and merchants decided to sell by the pound; the old and lumbering double platform scales were abandoned, and the single platform or lever scales introduced.

The New York Dry Dock Co. was organized about this time, and constructed two marine railways between Tenth and Eleventh streets, Avenue D, and the river. These were the first and only constructions in this city, if not in the United States, by which a vessel could be raised from the water, for up to this time, in order to calk the bottom of a vessel or to copper it, it was necessary to "heave her down"; that is, to secure the top of her lower masts to the pier at low water, then heave them down by a crab and falls, and when the tide rose one side of her bottom would be raised out of the water.

The raising of the supposed treasure in the British frigate *Hussar*, before referred to, was held to be an

enterprise so promising of success that a second company was organized for the purpose; but as neither company would allow the divers of the other to descend without being accompanied by one of their own, their operations were held in abeyance.

New York Chemical Works, with banking privileges, was chartered through the labors of John C. Morrison, a druggist at 183 Greenwich Street, under cover of being a factory for drugs and chemicals. It was located on a point of land at foot of Thirty-second Street, and Fitzroy Road, Hudson River; which point for many years after was one of the landmarks of the river, and known as "the Chemical Works," in like manner to "the Glass House Point" near to it, where there was a glass factory.

It was from this that the Chemical Bank was organized, and commenced operations in Broadway near to corner of Ann Street, afterward the site of the *Herald* Building.

It was in this year that a passenger from Liverpool, landing at Fire Island, and staging to the city, in consequence of a great rise in the price of cotton from fifteen to thirty cents per pound, conveyed the news to certain parties, who bought it here, and despatched pilot-boats and expresses to the Southern parts to buy more. Reaction came, however, and the ruin of several firms was the result.

Johnson, who had been indicted for murder on the 4th of December preceding, was found guilty on the 17th of March, and as there were not any members of the legal profession in those days known as Tombs lawyers, *vulgo* Shysters, the verdict was accepted without appeal and he was hanged on the 2d of April. The proceedings connected with his execution were so widely different from those of a later, and the present day, that a reference to them may be of interest. The culprit, dressed in white, trimmed with black, and seated on his coffin in an open wagon, was transported from the Bridewell (City Hall

Park) through Broadway to an open field at the junction of Second Avenue and about Thirteenth Street, where his execution was witnessed by many thousands of persons; his body was then taken to the Hall of the Physicians and Surgeons in Barclay Street, where it was subjected to a number of experiments with galvanism.

An Egyptian mummy, the first ever brought to this country, was exhibited in one of the basement rooms of the Almshouse; an ordinary building, alike to a row of six three-story dwelling-houses, occupying the site of the present new Court House.

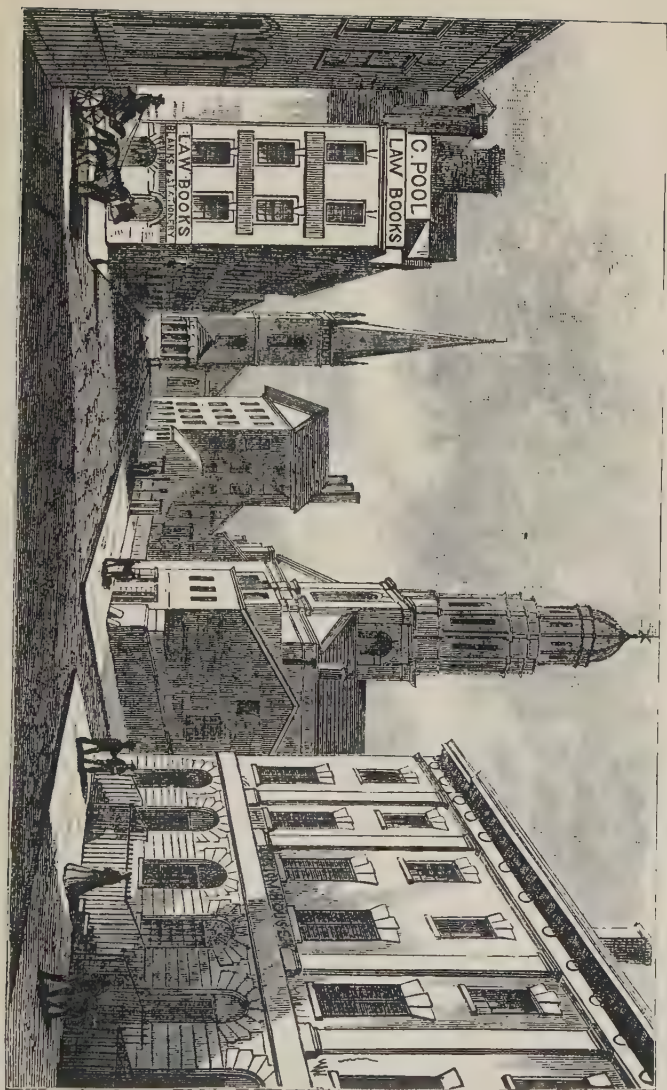
May 16. The steamboat *Etna*, plying in the Raritan River and hence to New Brunswick, justified her ill-omened name by bursting both of her boilers, involving a great loss of life. As her engines were of the type known as high pressure, and this was the first instance of this type in Northern or Eastern waters, loud expressions were to be heard of the danger to be apprehended from this class of boats.

In June the Chancellor decided the long-mooted vexed question as to the exclusive right of some parties to the navigation of certain rivers; and thus the Hudson River, for example, was decided to be open to general navigation by steamboats. The steamboat *Olive Branch*, on the route to Albany, which had been compelled (in order to evade the act giving to certain parties the exclusive right to navigate hence to Albany by steam) to start from Paulus Hook, touching here *en route*, was, in common with all others, permitted henceforth to run directly from here to Albany.

August 15 General Marquis de Lafayette, the friend of Washington, who had given to this country his generous aid in the dark days of the Revolution, arrived here in the packet-ship *Cadmus*. On the 16th he landed at Castle Garden, the guest of the nation, being received by the entire military force of the city and an enormous con-

course of citizens. He was greeted by many of his former companions in arms, notably, Generals Van Cortlandt and Clarkson, and Colonels Marinus Willett, Varick, Platt, and Trumbull; General Morgan Lewis and Colonel Nicholas Fish were necessarily absent. In order to add to the assemblage of citizens upon the reception of General Lafayette, the committee of arrangements provided that upon his arrival mounted buglers should ride through the city, and at certain intervals, at the corners of streets, proclaim his arrival by blasts from their instruments. The incidents of this most interesting visit have been related in sufficient detail by other chroniclers. I shall here merely refer to the reception at the mansion (before mentioned) of Colonel Rutgers, on Monroe, Cherry, Clinton, and Jefferson streets, then at its height of elegant comfort; and to the great *fête* of September 14 at Castle Garden, enclosed for the occasion in canvas; an entertainment which, for brilliancy and success at every point, was far in advance of any that ever before had been essayed in the city, and was equalled only by the reception at a later day of the Prince of Wales. Castle Garden (Castle Clinton), originally a small fortified island off the Battery, known as Fort George, had been leased by the city to a Mr. Marsh, who converted it into a day and evening resort. The entire portion facing the bay and river at the top of the parapet wall was floored for a very convenient width, with seats at the sides, and being protected by awnings in the day, it was, in connection with the character of the citizens that patronized it both day and evening, without parallel, and the most enjoyable spot, of a warm day, that the city had ever possessed.

It was from a party of young men who were in the habit of meeting at Castle Garden that the "Toe Club" was formed, one of the first social clubs that was organized in New York, the members of which were designated



CUSTOM HOUSE, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN AND TRINITY CHURCHES

"Toes," and their place of meeting was termed their "Shoe." Subsequently they met at Stoneall's, corner Fulton and Nassau streets.

Le Roy, Bayard & Co. were asked by the Greek deputies in London representing the Greek Government, to furnish an estimate of the cost of a fifty-gun frigate, to be built in this city. They gave a detailed estimate summing up a little less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. As a result of such an unlooked-for low estimate, orders were received by Le Roy, Bayard & Co. to proceed, and they contracted with Henry Eckford for one vessel, and G. G. & S. S. Howland with Smith & Dimon for another. The reported cruelties practised upon the Greeks by the Turks, with whom they were at war, aroused such a feeling of indignation here that a fund was raised to aid in the construction of these frigates.

The vessels were not only not completed within the period specified in the contract, but not for twice that period. Their cost, enhanced by charges for commission, premiums of exchange, brokerage, etc., exceeded the amount of the estimate furnished even for the cost of one.

When the vessels were completed, named *Hope* and *Liberator*, at a cost of a little less than nine hundred thousand dollars, there was a balance due on them, and they were not allowed to depart. But so pressing was the need of the Greeks that it was proposed by them to leave one in security for the balance, provided the other was allowed to depart, which was refused. A committee of three merchants was appointed as arbitrators of the case; and the United States Government bought the *Hope* for two hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars, named her *Hudson*, and removed her to the Navy Yard, where she remained as a receiving ship; but, having been built hurriedly of green timber, she soon rotted and was

never put in active service, and in 1825 was offered by the Government at a public auction, and retained by it at a bid of five thousand dollars.

Soon after charges of corruption, over-charges, etc., were so publicly and persistently made that cards requesting suspension of public opinion were published in the papers, followed by pamphlets in explanation and defence. The whole affair, from beginning to end, was a reflection upon the character of many of the parties concerned to such an extent that the recital of it in Walter Barrett's book is painful to read, and especially so when it is borne in mind that the citizens of the United States at large were zealously appealed to, to contribute to the fund in aid of the struggling Greeks, and that funds were contributed not only by individual contribution, but by societies, colleges, firemen, schools, etc.

It so occurred that I was personally advised of some of the proceedings in the construction of these vessels. The bookkeeper and only clerk with the constructors of the *Liberator* (Smith & Dimon), after the exposure of the great cost of these vessels, was taken into partnership; and it was a common remark in the neighborhood of their yard that they built several vessels after the *Liberator*, and were not known to buy much material.

The *Advocate*, a leading paper, in its columns of the 21st of September, published the fact, accompanied with expressions of its disapprobation, that a young man had been seen smoking in the streets so early as nine o'clock in the morning.

In boring for water in Jacob Street during this year a moderately effervescing spring was struck, which, upon being submitted to chemical analysis by Dr. Chilton, was reported to possess medicinal elements. The owner of the property forthwith furnished the first floor of the building with the instruments of a *spha*, and a stock company was organized. The water was sold at sixpence

a glass, and for some weeks the receipts were very remunerative; but upon some one suggesting that, as the locality was surrounded by tan-pits, which had retained tan-bark, lime, and animal skins for half-a-century or more, the ground might have received and imparted to the spring water such a variety of elements as to give it effervescing or sparkling qualities, the business ceased, the siphons were removed, and the building was occupied for the purpose of other trade.

Piracy in the West Indies, which I have before mentioned, was continued to such an extent that a public meeting of the citizens was called to urge upon the Government more effective action in its suppression. A meeting of citizens was called to consider the matter of the erection of a statue to General Washington.

November 24 the sloop *Neptune*, hence to Albany, was capsized off West Point, and twenty-three of her passengers were drowned.

December 9 Captain Harris of H. B. M. frigate *Hussar*, challenged the Whitehall boatmen of this city to a race with a crew from his ship, in a race-boat of his that had won a prize at Halifax, the *Dart*, for a thousand dollars a side. The interest in the race was very great; it was estimated that there were full twenty thousand spectators. It occurred off the Battery, over a triangular course; the weather and the water were rough, and the Whitehall boat, the *American Star*, was victorious by a lead of about three hundred yards.

The daily publication of newspapers at this time was but 14,266. The *Advocate*, a leading paper, both political and social, had three thousand subscribers.

In this year James P. Allaire, the proprietor of the largest steam-engine manufactory in the United States, located on Cherry and Monroe between Walnut (Jackson) and Corlears streets, designed and constructed the engines of the steamboat *Henry Eckford*, which were of

the compound type, being the first of the kind built in this country or applied to marine purposes in any country; subsequently, 1825 to 1828, he constructed those of the *Sun*, *Post Boy*, *Commerce*, *Swiftsure*, and *Pilot Boy*. It was not until more than thirty years after (1860) that the English engineers revived this type of engine; introducing it in all their steamers and land engines with the improvement of a receiver intermediate between the cylinders, and operating with a much higher pressure of steam.

A considerable movement in the theatrical world took place in the year 1824. The Lafayette Theatre in Laurens Street near Canal, owned by Major-general Charles W. Sandford, was built by him.

May 10 the Chatham Street Garden, built in 1822, and designed for a resort in summer, as it was covered only by an awning, was reconstructed as a theatre, at which Joseph Jefferson, Jr., afterward appeared, and also William R. Blake for the first time in New York.

The American Museum (Scudder's), originally at 20 Chatham Street, and now in New York Institution (see page 83), was the only one in the city. In evenings of favorable weather a band of musicians from over the portico enlivened the grounds in front, which became a very popular resort. Subsequently it removed to the building on the corner of Broadway and Ann Street, the site of the late *Herald* building, and here were transferred the curiosities of the Museum, afterward owned by Phineas T. Barnum, the world-renowned showman. It was here that Barnum opened a theatre under the style of "Lecture Room," of which that close observer, the late "Artemus Ward," remarked that you could see Barnum's actors before seven o'clock in the morning going to work with their tin dinner-pails. Here Barnum produced his Mermaid, manufactured by a Swede in Washington; his "Woolly" horse, Wild Woman of Borneo, Joice Heth,

the "What-is-it?" etc., and generally rejoiced in humbug. The premises were destroyed by fire, July 4, 1865.

September 23, in some of the principal streets, the laying of gas-pipes for public service was begun, and on the 30th Samuel Leggett, the President of the Gas Company (New York), gave a reception at his house, in commemoration of the event.

I remark a circumstance that even now appears in memory as a matter of importance in the social life of old New York. Edward Windust, who had occupied 149 Water Street, opened his famous restaurant in the cellar of No. 11 Chatham (Park Row), where for very many years he remained unrivalled as a caterer. Moreover, his premises were a centre of animated life, the home of the theatrical profession, and the resort of the brightest minds in society. For theatre parties the place was without rival. Between the acts at the Park Theatre the rooms were filled with men of fashion and wit, and at all times with the *gourmets*. The walls were richly adorned with illustrations of the stage. It had an entrance also in Ann Street, which was not generally known (it was not a "side door"), and young men would frequently employ a hack and direct it to Windust's, leaving it standing in front, and they would then pass out through the Ann Street door, leaving the hack to await them until the driver, becoming alarmed for his fare, would enquire and discover his loss. It was in this place that William Sykes, in 1833, who either was employed by or in partnership with Windust, was accidentally shot one evening by a young man exhibiting his pistol. Later (1837) Windust withdrew and leased a building, 347 Broadway, opening it as the Atheneum Hotel, where he failed of the success he anticipated.

Windust's motto, *Nunquam Non Paratus*, was no vain boast. Some distorted memory of it must have brought

about an amusing incident just related to me by an eminent citizen of New York. He was walking on Sixth Avenue when he remarked, within an oyster-shop, an imposing sign bearing the legend, *Nunquam Paratus*. Entering the place, he said to the proprietor that he wanted some oysters, but saw that he could get none there. "What d'ye mean?" said the man gruffly. "Why, you have a sign hung out to say you are not prepared with them." "No sich thing. Where is any sich sign?" "Why, here; this *Nunquam Paratus*." "Humph!" said the oyster man, "I guess you don't know—that's Latin, that sign is. It means 'always prepared.'"" "My friend," was the visitor's reply, "I guess somebody has been humbugging you; if you want to have 'always prepared,' in Latin, you must say, *Nunquam Non Paratus*; the sign you now have up means 'never prepared.'"" My informant added that he did not know if other scholars had been consulted or not, but on passing the shop a few days afterward, he observed that the *Nunquam Paratus* had disappeared.

In Marion, near Houston Street, there was a theatre in which the performers were colored.

James Fenimore Cooper conceived and originated the formation of a club which was designated the Bread and Cheese Club, which met semi-monthly at the Washington Hall in Broadway, now the northern part of the site of the Stewart Building. Amongst its members were eminent scholars and professional men of the period. In balloting for membership, "bread" was an affirmative vote, and "cheese" a negative.

Accompanying an enthusiastic disciple of Isaac Walton to Patchogue, L. I., we reached Roe's tavern in the regular course of stage and wagon in twenty-six hours; the same distance is now (1895) accomplished in less than three hours.

The offices of a leading broker in Wall Street, between Broad and William, rented for five hundred dollars per annum.

At this period the public promenades in the city were restricted to the Battery and to the bridge leading to the Red Fort, foot of Hubert Street, simple breathing-places, without even seats or refectories of any description. The general public went to Hoboken, where there was a large public-house on an elevation of the ground, sloping down to the river immediately at the ferry landing, which was known as the "Green," and from thence there was a wide shaded walk up to the boundary of the Stevens Mansion. In this walk of a week-day, young people from the city would flock, and spruce beer, mead, gingerbread, and fruits could be had. On Sundays the visitors were of a different type, young men, clerks, shopmen, and young merchants, would fill the benches on the "Green," smoke, and drink lemonade and port-wine sangarees. American whiskey was then wholly unknown north of Baltimore, and as for lager beer, it did not appear until many years after. So generally was the "Green" patronized on a Sunday, that it was publicly reported that Arthur Tappan offered one million dollars for the ground in order to close it up on that day.

On the opening of the "Elysian Fields" (1831) the walk was extended on the river shore to them, and then the green in front of the house of entertainment there was occupied in the manner that the "Green" had been.

The Rev. Prince Hohenlohe, near Olmütz (Moravia), was reported to have performed miracles, and a lady of Washington, who had been many years afflicted, communicated with him, and, at a preconcerted time, prayed with him, whereupon it was proclaimed she was immediately cured. I recollect the report of the case and the extended discussion it involved at the time.

About this period night-latches for the outer doors of residences were introduced, and in order that the great convenience they effected may be fully appreciated, one must understand that prior to this these doors were secured only by a large iron lock, the iron key of which varied from six to eight inches in length, and was of a proportionate weight thereto; hence, if a member of a family purposed to remain out late at night, he had either to agree with some member of it to remain up for him, to lock the door and take the key with him, or awake the family by the knocker on the door. Door-bells were then very rarely, if at all, in use. The old story of a man, in default of a knocker at his door, having used that of a neighbor to awake his family is not a fiction; a case did occur in Warren Street, in this city.

The New York Bible Society organized. Occupied a room corner of Cedar and Nassau streets, then one in Cliff Street, then one in Hanover Street, then erected a building on Nassau between Beekman and Ann streets; 1830 enlarged; 1852, at its present site, occupying the square bounded by Third and Fourth avenues, Astor Place, and Ninth Street; cost, \$304,000. Supplies Bibles to families and emigrants as they arrive, to vessels, public institutions, Sunday-schools, hotels, and city missionary societies.



DUTCH HOUSE

CHAPTER VIII

1825.—WILLIAM PAULDING AND PHILIP HONE,
MAYORS

A NUMBER of citizens associated in 1823, and formed a society for the custody of juvenile delinquents, and their moral and scholastic improvement; and as another party entertained the purpose of constructing a House of Refuge for such delinquents after the manner which had been proposed by Dr. John Griscom six years previously, the two associations joined; and in 1824 the United States Arsenal at junction of Broadway and the old Boston or Middle Road, which had been built in 1806, now the site of the Farragut, Worth, and Seward monuments, was fashioned to accommodate the two sexes of juveniles, and on the 1st of January, 1825, it was opened for operation. This building was burned in 1839, and the institution was removed to the foot of East Twenty-third Street in October of that year.

The site of these buildings and the surrounding area, in 1807, extended to Thirty-fourth Street on the north, Third Avenue on the east, and Seventh Avenue on the west; it was reduced in 1814 to the limits of Thirty-first Street, Fourth and Sixth avenues, and designated as Madison Square. About 1844 a further reduction was made to the present limits of Madison Square—Madison and Fifth avenues, Twenty-third and Twenty-sixth streets. The original design was that of a great military parade-ground.

In this year Chambers Street was extended from Cross (now City Hall Place) to Chatham Street; the name of

Hester Street, from Centre to Broadway, was changed to Howard Street; the Merchants' Exchange building was begun; a new building for the Savings Bank lately known as the Bleeker Street was erected in Chambers Street. An extensive fire occurred in Spring, Sullivan, and Thompson streets. The city was divided into twelve wards. Illuminating gas was coming more and more into general use, and the wooden lamp-posts were being



UNITED STATES ARSENAL, BROADWAY AND MIDDLE ROAD, NOW
MADISON SQUARE

replaced by those of iron. Gas-pipes were now first laid in Broadway from the Battery to Canal Street. As the gasoliers, burners, etc., were made in England, and no invoice for them was received with the first shipment of these articles, a delay of several weeks ensued before their cost could be known, and the price be computed for which they should be sold.

March 1. First appeared the *Courrier des États Unis*, published at 55 Wall Street, and on March 21 the first Sunday newspaper known in New York, the *Sunday Courier*, edited and published by James C. Melcher.

The steamboats *United States*, Captain Beecher, and

the *Linnaeus*, Captain Peck, ran to New Haven, fare three dollars. The dimensions of these boats were less than those of the transfer boats that now ply between Brooklyn and Jersey City, without equal accommodations and with very much less speed. The steamboats *Constitution* and *Constellation* were launched in the early part of this year, and, when engined, were put upon the route to Albany, by an association known as the Hudson River Line, in opposition to the Old or North River Line, which was ultimately rendered bankrupt by this competition.

The Mowatt Brothers, owners of the steamboat *Henry Eckford*, proposed the novel project of transporting merchandise and produce between New York and Albany in barges towed by a steamboat, and in pursuance of the design, the *Henry Eckford* was advertised to start from the foot of Rector Street with two barges in tow. As the design was generally held to be impracticable, the attendance did not exceed one hundred and fifty persons (of whom I was one); it was generally asked, if the engine of one boat was well employed to transport itself, how could it effectively transport two others? At the appointed time, with a punctuality worthy of imitation, the boat moved off with her load, and reaching Albany in the practicable time of twenty-four hours, the operation was acknowledged to be a success.

Up to this year, when tow or tug boats were introduced, sailing vessels were navigated from Sandy Hook around the city, and even through Hell Gate, under their canvas alone. Vessels of war, beating from the Navy Yard down the East River and Bay, were a frequent and interesting sight.

Charles Hall, a prominent merchant of this city, generally known by an undesirable *sobriquet*, built the ship *Washington*, of 979 tons old measurement (equal to about 1120 of the present, for a hull of her dimensions and model), and stayed her lower masts with chain

shrouding. This was not only the largest merchantman that had ever been built in the United States, but the first one in which chain rigging was introduced. In consequence of her great size and novel rigging she was very generally visited by residents and strangers, who with common accord pronounced her a failure, as a business experiment on account of her size, and nautically on account of her lower rigging; and she was colloquially termed "Bully Hall's failure."

April 26. The cleaning of the streets, piers, etc., for the current year, with possession of the sweepings, was offered at public auction, and the lowest price to be received by the contractor was five thousand dollars!

The sweeping of the streets was so different from that in operation at the final period of these reminiscences that it is worthy of reference. Thus, all house and store holders were required to clear the gutters and sweep the pavement in front of their buildings out to the centre of the street, from whence it was the duty of the department of street-cleaning to remove the dirt; but alike to many other public duties, the neglect of it was more apparent than the observance; and, as a result, not only were the newspapers and individuals loud in their many complaints, but frequently parties, suffering from the neglect by the accumulation of filth in the streets, would pile it up in a great mass and then label it "Corporation Pudding," and, in later years, "Bloodgood Pies," etc.; Bloodgood being the head of the department.

Passengers from Philadelphia *via* steamboat to Bordentown, thence by stage to New Brunswick, thence by steamboat, reached the city in eleven hours and fifteen minutes, and the occasion was deemed worthy of public notice.

May 2. The Bull's Head and the attendant tavern were removed from the Bowery and Bayard Street to Third Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, remaining the

head-quarters of the drovers and horse-dealers; for many years Daniel Drew was the proprietor of it, and as there was not at this period a bank above the Park, the money of his customers was deposited with him.

At the time of the construction of the Bull's Head Tavern the locality was covered with trees, and back of the building was a grove, to which picnic parties from



BULL'S HEAD TAVERN, SITE OF NEW YORK (BOWERY) THEATRE

the city resorted. The property was at one time owned by Peter Lorillard. In its earlier history it was a simple road-house after the style of the times. In the evening it was a place of meeting of the drovers, and it was told that they were in the habit of playing "crack loo" there, to an extent that involved the loss of hundreds of dollars.

The evident and increasing demand for an enlarged supply of water for the city was becoming so manifest that Bronx River was suggested by some, and boring by others, as means of obtaining the needed supply.

The capacity of this river was estimated to exceed three

million gallons *per diem*, but it was, and is, in the summer months, barely equal to the volume of water now required for the flushing of our gutters, the sprinkling of the streets and the parks and drives.

May 28. The steamboat *Bellona*, under command of Cornelius Vanderbilt (the late "Commodore"), commenced to run to Union Garden, Staten Island, for 12½ cents each way. This was Captain Vanderbilt's second command, and when William Gibbons (the owner of the steamboat line to Amboy and New Brunswick) in 1828 withdrew all his boats in consequence of a newly enacted law of the legislature of New Jersey, which he alleged to be unjust to him, he gave the *Bellona* to Captain Vanderbilt. In illustration of the difference in the manner in which steamboats of that day were fitted, compared with the present mode, it will be interesting to learn that the pilot-house of the *Bellona* was immediately over the engine-room, and that instead of bells to signal to the engineer, one stroke of a cane on the floor was the signal to start or to slow, as the position of the engine admitted, and two strokes were the signal for backing.

Fitz-Greene Halleck published his "Marco Bozzaris" and "Fanny" in this year.

The steamboat *Constitution*, on May 29, made the run from Albany to New York, aided by a freshet in the river, in the unprecedented time of 13½ hours. A flue of the boiler of this boat, on June 21, collapsed while she was landing at Poughkeepsie, and three persons were killed. As the boilers of all steamboats, with the exception of the *Etna*, which burst her boiler in 1824, were made of copper, the circumstance that this one of the *Constitution* was of iron, was made the occasion of much consideration and discussion as to the safety of iron compared with copper.

The boiler of the steamboat *Legislator*, at foot of Rector Street, exploded on June 2, killing four persons

and wounding three others. I witnessed the occurrence and went on board of her a few minutes after it. One of her crew in the mess-room, on hearing the rupture of the boiler, threw himself into a large tool-chest, closed the lid, and by this course escaped unharmed.

The removal of houses, fences, etc., in the line of Sixth Avenue to Love Lane (Twenty-first Street), in view of the opening of the avenue, was ordered to be effected before the 15th of July.

Theodore Downing, long and well known as a caterer, after having essayed at 40 Sullivan Street, in 1820, and at 33 Pell Street in 1822, opened at 5 Broad Street, where he continued, until the building was removed to accommodate the Drexel building, to enjoy a wide-spread reputation for the excellence of his oysters, and the superior manner in which he cooked plain dishes.

About this period Captain Maxwell, of a line of Liverpool packets, who resided on the bluff at the Narrows near to Fort Lafayette, brought over a number of English pheasants and set them free, having in view the domestication and rearing of them in that locality. This is cited to illustrate the primitive condition and wildness of the locality at that time.

Mr. Daniel R. Lambert, on the night of the 3d of June, in company with some friends, was returning from a visit to a friend (Lyde) who resided on or near Broadway and Tenth Street, a location so strictly suburban that it partook of the character of the country. About 1 A. M. he was offensively addressed by a party of young men, and upon retaliation and defence being essayed, Mr. Lambert was killed by a blow in his stomach. The young men were subsequently tried and convicted of manslaughter.

In consequence of the general want of confidence in the safety of travel by steamboats, a company which had been duly organized constructed the steamboats *Commerce* and *Swiftsure*, and the passenger barges *Lady Clinton* and

Lady Van Rensselaer; the design being total detachment of the passengers from the risk of explosion of the boiler or fire on the steamboat. The first trip was that of the *Commerce* and *Lady Clinton* on July 9. They made the run hence to Albany in about twenty-four hours, and were held to be very pleasant and safe, but the want of speed was fatal, and in two seasons they were displaced by the steamboats *New Philadelphia* and *Albany*, of Messrs. R. L. & J. C. Stevens of Hoboken. The safety barge system was supplemented, however, in September of this year by service of the (repaired) *Legislator*, towing the barge *Matilda* hence and from New Brunswick, N. J.

At this time it was suggested, the project being favorably considered by many, that it would be practicable and advisable to open and extend Canal Street, as a canal or strait, from river to river. The public pound then was in the Park grounds and near to the City Hall.

September 7. General Lafayette, having completed his tour in this country, in the course of which he had received distinguished marks of popular reverence and affectionate regard, embarked on board the United States frigate *Brandywine*, Captain Charles Morris, for Cherbourg.

A most interesting and significant series of celebrations began when, on October 8, the Erie Canal was formally opened to the Hudson River at Albany, and Samuel L. Mitchell, LL. D., M. D., on the part of this city, poured water from the Pacific and Atlantic oceans into that of the canal. On the 26th the completion of the great work was celebrated by the departure of a flotilla of canal-boats from Buffalo, at 10 A. M., added to at Albany by steamboats, and proceeding thence to Sandy Hook, where water from Lake Erie, from the Mississippi and Columbia rivers, and from the rivers of twelve foreign countries, was solemnly poured into the Atlantic. The start from Buffalo was at the signal of a gun, which was transmitted by other guns at intervals for the entire distance to New York,

and then returned in the same fashion; the times between the first and last guns from lake to sea, and from sea to lake again, were an hour and twenty-five minutes each way. This famous aquatic procession, with its fit company of dignitaries, traversed—it might almost be said under a canopy of flags—the whole breadth of the State, and then the Hudson River, lighted by successive bonfires and to the sound of church bells through the whole length of its route. On November 4 it reached New York, when the city fairly “broke loose,” with every possible official and popular demonstration of rejoicing. At the City Hall fifteen thousand fire-balls were ignited and projected.

A writer of 1892 notes: “Probably no one who witnessed this celebration—unless it was a babe in arms, carried by some mother who herself wished to view the procession—now lives.” An incomprehensible statement, since only sixty-seven years had passed in 1892, and many witnesses of the celebration in the days of their conscious childhood or youth remained, and still remain (1895).

The Lafayette Theatre, in Laurens Street near Canal, which had been built in the previous year and was occupied as a circus, was selected as the most available arena in which to hold the Grand Canal Ball, which occurred on November 7.

It was while the canal celebration was engrossing public interest (October 15) that Mordecai M. Noah, editor of the New York *Enquirer*, essayed the realization of a long-meditated scheme, and at the head of an association of Hebrews purchased Grand Island in Niagara River, termed it the city of Ararat, laid its corner-stone, and by a proclamation of his, as first Judge of Israel, announced the reorganization of the Government of the Jewish nation. The enterprise failed.

Thomas S. Hamblin, the actor, arrived from London on October 26, and on November 1 appeared at the Park

Theatre in "Hamlet." Mrs. Sharpe (*née* Leesugg), sister to Mrs. Hackett, had arrived in New York ten days earlier. She appeared at the Park on November 15. Her diverse talents elicited praise for her in almost every department of the drama. She retired from the stage in 1839.

Edmund Kean, who had returned from London in this month, was engaged to appear in Boston, but in consequence of his having left England under the cloud of a very public scandal, the attendance at the theatre at the time of beginning his performance was so light, as observed by him from behind the curtain, that he declined to appear, withdrew from the theatre, returned to this city, and essayed to appear here. A large portion of the audience, comprising many Bostonians, resented his action and arrested the performance. Mr. Kean, having published a very candid statement of the cause of his action, coupled with a very proper apology, was permitted to perform.

During this autumn "The Lady of the Lake," produced at the Chatham Garden Theatre, created a genuine furor, and at the same house great popularity was obtained by a domestic opera entitled "Forest Rose," written by Samuel Woodworth, in which Yankee character was represented, much to the public delight.

Peale's Museum, at 232 Broadway, opened October 26 of this year, was for many years a deservedly popular resort for old and young; the young people were amused with the comic recitals of Dr. Valentine, and interested by exhibitions of curiosities, by being weighed, electrified, etc.

The Garcia *troupe* that had lately arrived, the first Italian *troupe* in the country, appeared at the Park Theatre on November 29 in "Il Barbiere di Seviglia" before a most brilliant audience. It was reported that the box-office receipts for the evening were three thousand dollars, an

enormous sum for those days. My impression is that the Garcia company was brought to this country through the effort of Dominick Lynch, himself a musical amateur, and a man of fashion and great favorite in the society of his time. The nights of performance were Tuesdays and Saturdays; boxes, two dollars; pit, one dollar. Signorina Garcia was the *prima*; she was very pretty and sprightly, and was soon married to Mr. Eugene Malibran of this city. Her musical fame as Mme. Malibran is a part of history. The few remaining men of her day will probably agree that Malibran has been unequalled, and though deductions may be made on the score of immature musical judgment at the time of their hearing her, and fond attachment to youthful impressions, there remains ground for supposing from the consent of adequate critics who knew her performances that she really was the most gifted and accomplished singer of modern times. Mme. Malibran's most successful career was brought to an early close through the effects of a fall from her horse at Manchester, England, in 1836 (she was born in 1800).

The Garcia company gave seventy-nine representations of various works of the Italian school, appearing for the last time in New York late in September of 1826. Mme. Malibran, however, remained here for about a year longer.

In this year there was introduced from Paris the novel fashion of tapering the legs of men's pantaloons from the knee down to the foot, shaping them over the instep and holding them down by straps under the boot; it was termed *à la mode de Paris*. This inconvenient manner was soon after improved by returning to the wide legs of the pantaloons, and securing them with a leather strap under the boot or shoe, buttoned at the sides.

The steamboat *Sun* was launched about this time, and at a later day she ran from Albany to this port in a few minutes over twelve hours, which was far in advance of

any previous passage. This performance was held to be worthy of being recorded in rhyme, which read :

“ Now hurrah for the steamboat *Sun*,
From Albany to York she come ;
In hours twelve and minutes few,
The time is short, the story's true.”

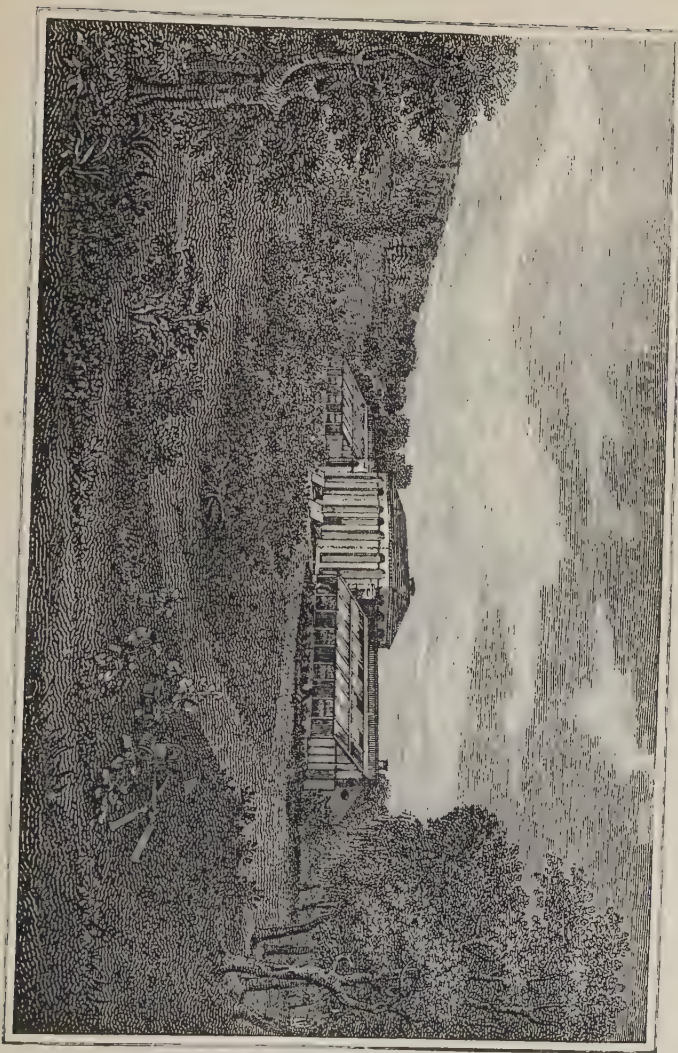
December 23 the name of Slote Lane was changed to Exchange Place. On the 31st the thermometer marked 27° below zero.

The Botanical Garden on Murray Hill, known as Elgin's Garden, from Forty-seventh to Fifty-first Street, and Fifth to Sixth Avenue, had been founded by David Hosack, M. D., as early as 1801, while he was Professor of Botany in Columbia College, and the question of its utility was the subject of much discussion at this time. This estate of “Elgin” had been purchased from Dr. Hosack by the State in 1814 and given to Columbia College to replace a Vermont township granted long before, and lost when the claim of New York to ownership of Vermont was defeated. This ground forms the chief part of Columbia's present endowment.

In this year the young Duke of Saxe-Weimar visited the city and country. *En route* to Niagara Falls by stage, at one of the change-stables or hotels he entered the bar-room to warm himself, when, as he was the only passenger wanting to fill the list, the new driver entered and asked, “Where is the man I am going to drive?” to which the Duke responding, the driver rejoined, “And I am the gentleman that's going to drive you.”

The prototype of the present steel pens was made of silver; the sale, however, was very restricted, in face of attachment to the established quill; the ever-pointed pencil also made its first appearance in this year.

About this time were built in Broadway, opposite to





Bond Street, two houses, Nos. 663 and 665, with marble fronts, probably the only houses in the country constructed of that material. They were then known as the "Marble Houses," later as the Tremont House, and now are absurdly renamed the New York Hotel. So exceptional were they as to excite a very general curiosity, and the Sunday afternoon walks of our citizens were in some cases extended, in order to obtain a view of them, and the "Marble Houses" became one of the land-marks of the boundaries of the city.

In evidence of the difference in the character of those who then superintended and controlled local political matters from those of the present day, termed ward politicians, a newspaper of 1825 gives notice of ward meetings, signed by such men as Campbell P. White, Isaac L. Varian, Daniel P. Ingraham, Stuart F. Randolph, I. B. Thorp, and others like them.

The consumption of cotton in the United States for the preceding year was estimated at 150,000 bales. For the "cotton year" ending September 1, 1894, it was 2,319,688 bales, and for the year September 1, 1892, to September 1, 1893, it was 2,431,134 bales.

Walter Barrett, in his wonderful history, "The Old Merchants of New York," gives the cause of so many boys from the Eastern States, or from abroad, succeeding in business and becoming partners in the houses in which they were employed, while the advance of our city boys was much less; asserting it to be their cheerful willingness to do that which is required of them, when the City boy would mutter, "I'm not an errand boy." In illustration of this, I became acquainted with a Mr. Bernard Graham, who had been a porter in the extensive house of Peter Harmony & Co., at No. 63 Broadway, and was then known as the out-door man of the firm, of which he subsequently became a partner. Further, a young man who had worked on a farm until he was seventeen years of

age, became a pedler of tin and wooden ware. In 1793 he established a store at 40 Maiden Lane, and commenced the sale of dry-goods. He made money, then bought a house in Pearl Street, and, as customary at that period, he and his family lived over the first floor or store. In 1823 he built himself a handsome home in the upper part of Broadway, and when he died, he left a fortune of eight hundred thousand dollars, which was divided among a large family of children; but little of which now remains with the heirs of those who received it.

After the acceptance of the Commissioners' Map of the city of 1807, a square designated as Hamilton was bounded by Third and Fifth avenues, Sixty-sixth and Sixty-ninth streets, but it has been since closed. Fayette, running from Chatham Square to Bancker, was in this year changed to Oliver Street.

The several city ordinances defining the requirements of housekeepers, individuals, etc., were better observed than at a later day. There was one that restricted signs, emblems, etc., from being projected beyond the face of buildings, and in evidence of the strict manner in which it was observed, a tea-dealer on Broadway, an Englishman, displayed a carved elephant over his store, with the head projecting out into the street; he was summoned to pay the fine due to his violation and also to remove the figure. He refused to comply; so singular, so unprecedented, was such resistance that the matter became of public notoriety, being reported and animadverted upon in the daily papers. This man, some years afterward, while looking out of a front window of the American Hotel, corner of Broadway and Barclay Street, saw a woodcock alight in the Park. He took his gun, went over to the Park, flushed the bird, killed it, and blinded an eye of a boy, for which he was sued for damage.

In winter the wearing of fur caps by gentlemen was so general that felt hats were exceptional; even the ladies' hats were either made of fur or trimmed with it. Passing up Broadway in the winter of 1825-26, at the northern corner of Vesey Street, I witnessed in great part the following scene. At this period and for many years after, until the street was sewered, all the surface water from the Park ran over a depression across Broadway, and down Vesey Street, and, as a result, the gutter during a heavy rain or thaw would be knee-deep, involving the use of a board to bridge it. At this time the gutter was running very full from the effects of a thaw, and a man, well-dressed and of presentable appearance, had dragged a chinchilla hat from off the head of a negress, stamped on it, and then threw it into the gutter, where it was rapidly borne down the street. Upon being questioned why he had done it, he replied: "I have just paid eighteen dollars for a chinchilla hat for my sister, and I don't mean that any nigger-wench shall wear one like it, while I know it."

It is worth noting that the social status of negroes, at that period and for many years afterward, was very different from that of the present time. Negroes were not admitted in street stages, in the cabins of steamboats, theatres, or places of amusement; and in churches only in pews at the foot of the aisles which were assigned to them. Later, when street railways were put in operation, the Sixth Avenue line designated some of its cars by painting conspicuously on the sides, "Colored Persons allowed in this Car."

With the exception of the negresses of the Dowling, Jackson, and Dandy Cox class, they generally wore bandanna kerchiefs on their heads, and they were not called ladies; in fact, the terms ladies and gentlemen were used with much more discrimination than later. The appellation of sales-lady to a sales-woman would

have been held as a joke, and would have been resented by the recipient of the term.

New York Dispensary, organized 1790, incorporated 1798. Having omitted any previous notice of this institution, I avail myself of a recollection of a visit to it in company with one of its physicians. It was and is located in Centre, corner of White Street. The district of its operation is bounded by the North River, a line through Spring Street, Broadway to Fourteenth Street, thence to and down First Avenue to Allen and Pike streets and the East River. Its object is the furnishing of free medical, surgical, and dental aid, vaccination, and the visiting of deserving sick in their homes when necessary.

In this year the population of the city was only 160,086, and of this number 12,575 were colored and sixteen of them were entitled to vote.*

* The first Directory was published by David Frank in 1786, but thirty-nine years previous to this, and contained but 851 names, of which there were 7 Smiths, 1 Kelly, and 1 Brown.



M'GOWAN'S PASS, 1816. ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH STREET
AND SIXTH AVENUE

CHAPTER IX

1826.—PHILIP HONE, 1825-26, AND WILLIAM PAULDING,
1826, MAYORS

THIS year was one of much commercial distress, the result of the failure of several spurious banks chartered by the State of New Jersey. Subsequently, by the failure of several insurance companies, was revealed an amount of venality that affected the commercial character of the city at home and abroad, and also that of a number of persons of character and respectability; resulting in the conviction of some by a court of justice; some of them being sent to the Penitentiary, while others appealed to the Court of Errors, and escaped by the casting vote of the Lieutenant-governor.

Jacob Barker, who has been already mentioned (1822), in consequence of his connection with the Exchange Bank at a previous date, and the Washington and Warren at a very late period, was very seriously and generally censured in the public prints, and some years after this he became a citizen of New Orleans. He resided at 34 Beekman Street, a neighborhood which at that time was the residence of many of our well-known and distinguished citizens; he enjoyed not an enviable reputation for his shrewdness in business matters and responsibilities. My employer, who had a bill against him for the repairs of his steamboat *Marco Bozzaris*, threatened to sue him; whereupon he said: "It is not worth while for you to go to the expense, when you can buy a judgment against me of any amount you want at a very low rate." At this time, which was some years

prior to his leaving for New Orleans, a number of brokers publicly advertised or proposed to raise the amount of three hundred dollars, to give him as an inducement to leave the city.

Instances of Barker's shrewdness have been frequently repeated. Thus, when a boy, he engaged to carry a trunk for a passenger to a neighboring hotel, but finding it too heavy for him to handle alone, he secured the services of a playmate by promising that if he received two apples for the work he would give him one. The trunk was transported, and Barker received a sixpence, whereupon, when his assistant asked for his half, he replied: "If he had given me two apples, I would have given you one, as I said; but as he did not give me apples, I have none to give you." On another occasion, he had incurred the dislike of the paying teller of a bank, and upon demanding payment in specie of a check for a thousand dollars, he was given a box of six-penny pieces. At this time, and for many years afterward, in making a deposit in a bank, the teller, when he had counted the amount, asked the depositor the amount of it, and if his account agreed, well; if not, a new count was made. Upon receiving this box Barker caused the lid to be raised, withdrew a few pieces, pocketed them, and then directed the balance to be passed to his credit as a deposit. Whereupon the teller had to count the entire contents of the box, while Barker had but to count his small portion and subtract it from the whole in order to name the amount of the deposit.

When in the shipping business he was at one time much exercised regarding the safety of a particular vessel on a distant trading voyage, which he had not insured. He one day applied to an insurance office for a very full amount upon her; the application not having been made "binding," he did not ask for the policy, but a few days afterward he hurriedly appeared at the

office and told the president of the company that he need not sign the policy, as he himself "had heard of the vessel." Whereupon, the president replied that the application had been accepted and the transaction completed, retired to his private office, and returned with the policy duly signed, which Barker pocketed. Soon after it was posted that the vessel had been wholly lost. Barker had "*heard* of the vessel," that is, he had *heard* of her loss. It was reported that this was a case of "diamond cut diamond"; the policy, in fact, having not been signed until after Barker reported hearing from the vessel; the president intending thus to secure the premium without taking any risk.

Mrs. Hackett, who since her marriage had retired from the stage for a period of seven years, was induced to return to it, in consequence of the failure of her husband, a merchant of Utica, and appeared on January 27 at the Park Theatre. March 1, James H. Hackett himself appeared for the first time on any stage at the Park, and in spite of the nervousness natural under the circumstances, his success warranted his adoption of the profession. He made several profitable English tours from 1827 to 1851. In 1829 and 1830 he was connected with the Chatham and the Bowery managements; in 1837 he managed the old National for a time; still later, he was concerned in the Astor Place Opera House. He brought out Grisi and Mario in the summer of 1854. Hackett's imitations were remarkable, and his *Dromio* (especially with Barnes) and *Falstaff* were wonderful. He gained a great deal of money, which he used first to pay all his trade debts. As a *raconteur* he was inimitable.

On March 20 the Common Council required hacks to have lighted lamps at night.

March 30. One Hewlett, a colored representative of "Shakespeare's proud heroes," as he himself termed it, gave illustrations of his talent at 11 Spruce Street.

At this time the steamboat *Washington*, under the command of Captain Elihu S. Bunker, then and for many years afterward well known, commenced running to Providence. John C. Symmes returned to this city and delivered a series of lectures in support of his theory of a passage to the centre of the earth, at the North Pole (see 1821).

June 5. Garden Street (Exchange Place) was widened to Broad. The Merchants' Exchange building (the present Custom House), was in course of erection. The project of constructing a railroad between Schenectady and Albany was entertained and advanced.

June 12. Hackett appeared at the Park Theatre for the third time on any stage, for the benefit of his wife, as *Monsieur Morbleu* in "Monsieur Tonson."

June 15 George P. Morris's play of "Brier Cliff" was produced at the Chatham Garden Theatre and achieved decided success and long popularity. July 15 Thomas Placide appeared at this house for the first time in New York; becoming much esteemed as a capital low comedian, though of less talent and general capacity than his brother Henry. He very soon after joined the Park company.

June 23 Edwin Forrest appeared for the first time in New York, at the Park Theatre, as *Othello*. Returning to the Park, he produced "Metamora" and "The Gladiator," both written for him. He was twice in England. Forrest's connection with the Astor Place riot, and his divorce suit, injured him in public estimation; yet immediately after the verdict in the latter case, being engaged at the Broadway Theatre, he opened (in January, 1852) to an enormous house, and played *Damon* for sixty-nine consecutive nights, surpassing all records of tragic performances then existing.

June 24, St. John's Day, was laid the corner-stone of Masonic Hall, on the site of 314 and 316 Broadway, a

Gothic structure of imposing appearance among buildings of the time. It contained a fine saloon 100 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 25 feet high, richly decorated. Here the first fair of the American Institute was held. After the alleged murder of Morgan and the organization of the Anti-masonic party, it was named Gothic Hall.



MASONIC HALL, 1826

Before this building was completed, William Morgan published his book purporting to reveal the secrets of Masonry, and then occurred his hidden and unexplained disappearance. As it was alleged that he had been murdered by Masons and his body secreted, the charge was availed of by some politicians in the State, and an Anti-masonic party was organized, which not only pervaded this State, but extended to contiguous States, and continued active for some time. Thurlow Weed, of Albany, took a leading part in availing himself of the excitement against Masons, with a view to the organization of an opposition to the Democrats. Upon being told that the body of a drowned man had been found in Niagara River and that some declared it to be that of Morgan, while others who had seen it denied that it was his, Weed is reported to have said: "It is a good enough Morgan until after the election." In 1830 Francis Granger received one hundred and twenty-eight thousand votes

as Anti-masonic candidate for Governor of New York. In 1832 William Wirt was Anti-masonic candidate for President of the United States, and obtained the electoral votes of Vermont, a State which was for several years wholly under Anti-masonic rule. During this excitement Masons were held to be so obnoxious to propriety and good citizenship that the order was measurably paralyzed; so much so that some lodges closed and others met but rarely,—in one case I know of, the lodge withdrew and donated its funds, exceeding six thousand dollars, to a charitable institution,—but in time the opposition lapsed and Masonry lifted its head, and was soon restored to popularity and usefulness. In the meanwhile the name of the hall was changed to Gothic Hall.

July 4 the new Lafayette Theatre was opened. General Sanford built during this summer the Mount Pitt Circus, in Grand Street, opposite East Broadway, first opened in November.

On arrival of the Liverpool packet *Silas Richards*, her captain reported that in a given latitude and longitude, he, with his passengers and crew, saw a sea serpent on the 7th of June.

July 18 the project of cutting a canal from One Hundred and Eighth Street at the Harlem River to Spuyten Duyvil Creek, was first entertained and discussed.

September 11 the Williamsburgh Ferry Co. petitioned the Common Council to allow them to replace their horse-boat with a steamboat, as a steamboat was not provided for in their grant.

September 19 a family from the South arriving here with several slaves as servants, a party of resident negroes assembled soon after and endeavored to incite a mob for the purpose of freeing the slaves, but the general populace and the Courts resisted the design.

The firm of Arthur Tappan & Co. was the largest silk house in the city. Arthur and Lewis Tappan were

the principal originators of the abolition of slavery movement. Arthur was a zealous bigot of a pronounced type. He issued to the clerks of the house, and submitted to all applicants for employment, the following requirements and rules for their government and manner of living : "Total abstinence ; not to visit certain proscribed places nor remain out after ten o'clock at night ; to visit a theatre, and to make the acquaintance of an actor precluded forgiveness ; to attend Divine service twice on Sundays, and on every Monday morning to report church attendance, name of the clergyman, and texts ; prayer-meeting twice a week, and must belong to an anti-slavery society and essay to make converts to the cause."

September 21 the steamboat *New Philadelphia* made a passage hence to Albany in the unprecedented time of twelve hours and fifteen minutes, including all her eight landings. The *Sun*, in her fast passage, came from Albany, or *down* the river.

September 27 Henry Eckford, George W. Browne, Mark Spencer, and Jacob Barker, who had been indicted for a conspiracy upon the allegation of irregular transactions in the operation of certain banks and financial companies, were arraigned in the Court of Oyer and Terminer held by Judge Edwards ; they were prosecuted by Hugh Maxwell and Peter Augustus Jay, and defended by Thomas Addis Emmet, William M. Price, Murray Hoffman, David C. Colden, and William R. Williams ; Mr. Barker defending his own case. The Court forbade the publication of the current testimony. Stenography was not practised then. On the 23d of the following month the jury was discharged, having failed to agree upon a verdict ; their decision was reported to be seven to five for a verdict of guilty, against all ; and eight to four for all but Henry Eckford.

October 2 the famous English tragedian, W. C. Ma-

cready, made his American début at the Park Theatre, as *Virgilius*, instantly taking a very high place. He returned to England at the end of the season, but was again at the Park in 1843, and made his last appearance there in the autumn of 1844.

The first of the stone buildings of the General Theological Seminary in Chelsea Square (Ninth and Tenth avenues, Twentieth and Twenty-first streets) was completed in this year, the corner-stone having been laid by Bishop White, July 28, 1825. This was the one afterward termed the East Building, removed in 1892 to make way for new houses for the professors. The present Dean of the Seminary, the Very Rev. Dr. E. A. Hoffman, writes in a recent article published in the *Trinity Record*: "The site was then far removed from the city and extended down to the banks of the Hudson, being surrounded on the other sides by green fields, enclosed by post-and-rail fences. The grounds, which now stand above the street, were then an apple orchard, which was situated near the corner of what is now Ninth Avenue and Twenty-first Street. Professor Clement C. Moore's country residence—extending from Nineteenth to Twenty-fourth Street and from Eighth Avenue to the river, and known as Chelsea—was the only house in the vicinity; and with this exception, save a few straggling houses in the village of Greenwich, there was scarcely a good brick house to be found between it and Canal Street. The only approach to the grounds was through a narrow road, called Love Lane, running easterly to the Bloomingdale Road, now Broadway; while the water was at times so deep immediately around the new building as to make it inaccessible during a great portion of the winter, except on horseback or in a carriage." This fine property had been given to the Seminary by Clement C. Moore, immortalized among children by his verses, "'Twas the Night before Christmas"; being a part of his patrimony,

formerly attached to the country-house of his father, the Rt. Rev. Benjamin Moore, Bishop of New York.

October 23 was a day of consequence in New York's theatrical annals, for it saw the opening of the New York Theatre ; so named officially, but even then called and afterward universally known as the Bowery Theatre, constructed on the site of the Bull's Head (see page 169). It was opened with "The Road to Ruin," and the farce of "Raising the Wind," under the management of George H. Barrett. Prices of admission : pit, $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents ; boxes, 75 cents ; gallery, 25 cents. This was the first theatre in New York to be lighted with gas. The house and stage were the largest in America. For many years Thomas S. Hamblin was the lessee, and Gilfert the manager, and the house acquired great fame. Many plays of note were here first produced, and many actors and actresses who became celebrated first appeared here. Here Mme. Malibran was paid six hundred dollars for a performance—a sum in those days held to be enormous—and here she made



CLEMENT C. MOORE'S RESIDENCE

her last appearance in America, on October 28, 1827. The Bowery suffered more than its fair share of the fate that besets theatres, being four times destroyed by fire ; viz., in 1828, 1836, 1838, and 1845.

In December of this year it was first thought necessary to pave the sidewalk in Canal Street, and then only on one side. Waltzing was first introduced this season as an element of evening entertainment; this occurred at the house in Franklin Street of a member of a leading French shipping firm. I was present. The discussions and declarations on the propriety of such a lapse from the requirements of a society principally (at that time) confined to the descendants of Knickerbockers and Puritans, can more readily be inferred than portrayed. *Sed tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.*

Lithography was first introduced. There was but one boat at the Paulus Hook (Jersey City) ferry. It was about this time that the making of mint juleps was introduced here ; they were a great novelty and were indulged in to a great extent, as much in the way of curiosity as from a liking for them.

Onesippe Pacolin commenced business at No. 7 Wall Street, and subsequently in 1840 removed to 82 Broadway ; he was the first strictly French boot and shoe maker of a Parisian stamp that opened in this city, and so superior was the material he used, and so thorough his workmanship, that he soon took the lead in his line, and in a comparatively few years retired with an independence.

Mrs. Knight, from London, first appeared at the Park Theatre in this year.

Lafayette Place was opened on the 4th of July in this year, one hundred feet in width and through Vauxhall Garden. Bancker, which was a street notorious for the objectionable character of its dwellers, and a bye-word, was changed to Madison Street.

The State prison at Christopher Street was purchased

of the State by the Corporation for one hundred thousand dollars.

The public schools at this period were but five in number, *viz.*: "Chatham Street," near Tryon Row; 119 "Henry," near Pike Street; "Hudson," corner Barrow Street; "Rivington," near Pike Street, and "Chrystie Street," No. 70.

In consequence of a rupture in the relations of the Professors and Trustees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, a second college was organized, termed the Rutgers Medical College, which was located in Duane near to Church Street.

Antoine Malapar, who in 1825 had been a bar-tender at Castle Garden, associated with George L. Pride and others, advertised the formation of the Marble Manufacturing Co., assumed the province of a Bank of Deposit, and issued notes. The enterprise was viewed with such general suspicion that it existed but for a brief period, failing within the year, and in its failure the Franklin Bank, the Jefferson Insurance Co., and a bank in New Jersey in some manner were involved, and they also failed. Malapar had descended upon the public in great force, and for a time was a noted figure in Wall Street, standing prominently on the steps of banks and the Exchange, displaying a gold pencil-case wherewith to note his operations—gold pencils were scarce in those days. For a year or more his local renown was nearly equal to that of the leading speculators of the day. He, however, gradually disappeared from the public gaze and was quite forgotten until, a few years afterward, it was learned that he had died in the Almshouse.

At this period watering-place life was slightly organized and comparatively restricted. Nothing was known of the general summer exodus that in these days divests the finer parts of the town of almost every sign of occupancy from May till November. The places of

resort for the moderate vacations indulged in at the time were Ballston Spa (perhaps Saratoga), Lebanon Springs, and Trenton Falls, N. Y., and Schooley's Mountain, N. J. Newport was a quiet town at which the steamboats hence to or from Providence touched, if there was any one to land or to be taken off. Places now thronged by thousands for the sake of picturesque scenery were then unvisited; indeed the love of Nature seems to be a development of more modern civilization and modes of thought. The Adirondacks retained their native wildness; a few hardy spirits adventured out of curiosity or for scientific purposes to some points in the White Mountain region, and the reports of extreme difficulty and considerable danger in ascending Mount Washington were apt to deter others from imitating their example. It was not till 1840 that Abel Crawford, first of all men, rode a horse to the foot of the cone or dome of Mount Washington.

The Almshouse at Bellevue which had been commenced in 1823 was completed in this year, and were it not that it would awaken mournful recollections among families and friends of unfortunates, I could recite a number of instances of meeting, in my official visits to Bellevue and the "Islands," schoolmates, youthful companions, bright intellects and promising men, that were there awaiting that early dissolution ever attendant upon debauched dissipation.

New York Society Library, incorporated 1795, was located at corner of Nassau and Cedar streets.

In the previous year, 1819, the French Benevolent Society of New York (*Société Française de Bienfaisance de New York*) was incorporated; it was organized in 1809. Its objects, to assist needy French people with medical advice, medicines, food, clothing, and temporary shelter.

About 1823 there was a young man in the city who, with his associates, amongst some other festive amusements, would occasionally, in the early hours of the morn-

ing, awake or terrorize the "Dogberrys" of the city watch, and who not only did "those things he ought not to have done," but "left undone those that he ought to have done," and as a result, he was very generally and well known and quoted. In addition, he was the owner and driver of a very fast mare, which, for exceptional speed, his daily displays of her in Broadway, of her capacity on the roads, and the uniform manner in which she, even at night, however unguided, would return with him to her stable, was as well known as he was.

As there were not any trotting courses or associations, especial trotting wagons or sulkies, or timing watches at this period, her speed was not publicly known; my impression is that it was about a mile in three minutes, about equal to that of the "Boston Blue" of Mr. Stackpole, who claimed that in 1810 he had trotted a mile in two minutes forty-eight and one-half seconds, and in order the better to avail himself of such singular and exceptional speed, he was taken to England.

The only competitor of this mare was a horse owned by Wm. Niblo named "Dragon," and on an afternoon, when the usual number of gentlemen who had driven out of town to Cato's (Fifty-second Street) were resting their horses and refreshing themselves, the owner of the mare referred to entered, and in a discussion that ensued regarding her points he was asked what he thought of Billy Niblo's "Dragon," to which he vauntingly replied, "My mare can show him her tail from Brooklyn to Jamaica." A lad who was present related this to a boarder of Niblo, who immediately challenged the mare, which being accepted, the match came off from the turnpike gate on the road to Jamaica, about where Adams Street and Boerum Place met it.

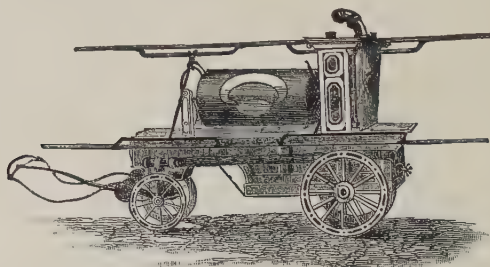
Cato drove the mare, and White Howard, a keeper of a livery stable at Brooklyn, drove "Dragon," and one of the conditions of the match was that, in the event of

either horse "breaking up," he was to be stopped and turned around; this was not an exceptional requirement, it being one that was observed both here and in England at this period. "Dragon" won.

A few years after this the public were surprised to learn that the owner of the mare had mended his ways, joined the Methodist Church, and become a zealous and vociferous member.

About 1824, a family of Charleston, S. C., on their return home, were driven down to a pier south of Wall Street, to embark in a vessel, and as the carriage was fully occupied by the mother, children, and maid, the father walked down. It occurred, however, that the carriage was backed against the string-piece of the pier, and from its insufficiency, carriage and horses fell into the water and the entire party was drowned. I saw the carriage and horses in the water.

St. Andrew's Society of the State of New York, founded in 1756, and incorporated in 1826, is probably the oldest society in the country. Its object, the promotion of social and friendly intercourse among Scotchmen and their descendants in this city and its vicinity, and the relief of such as may be indigent.



CITY FIRE-ENGINE

CHAPTER X

1827.—WILLIAM PAULDING, MAYOR

ALTHOUGH I have very distinct recollections of the existence of the churches here referred to, and of the removal or destruction of some of them, I am unable to give the exact periods, etc., in all cases, and in consequence of the lapse of time (seventy years), deficiency in records, and the change of ministers, etc., I have had much difficulty in presenting this record, and if there are errors, they are not with me, but with the authorities I have referred to.

The churches and houses of worship therefore in existence at this period which I recollect, and which have been either removed by the advance of population, sold, or burned, etc., are :

Episcopal: "Trinity," 1696, Broadway, facing Wall Street; 1776, burned; 1788, rebuilt and furnished with a chime of bells; 1839, taken down; rebuilt and opened May 21, 1846. "Église du St. Esprit," Pine near Nassau Street; 1704, French Protestant; 1741, repaired; 1780, destroyed; 1794, rebuilt; 1803, Protestant Episcopal; 1834, sold, then built corner Leonard and Church streets; now in Twenty-second Street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues. "St. George's," 1752, organized; 1811, in Beekman Street; 1814, burned; 1816, rebuilt; 1845, in Rutherford Place. "St. Mark's," 1791, Second Avenue and Tenth Street; 1799, rebuilt; 1829, consecrated. "Christ," 1794, 49 Ann, near Nassau Street; 1823,



ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, CORNER OF BROADWAY AND HOUSTON STREET

Anthony (Worth) Street, on site of Theatre near Broadway; 1854, West Eighteenth Street; 1859, at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street; 1891 burned; now on Boulevard at Seventy-first Street. At the time this church moved to Anthony Street, a part of the congregation objected to the move and obtaining permission of the old church, organized a parish and named it "Christ Church in Ann Street," but it lived for a brief period and in 1826 the building was sold to Roman Catholics, as below; 1834, burned. "St. Thomas's," 1823, corner of Houston Street and Broadway; 1870, corner Fifth Avenue and Fifty-third Street. "All Saints," 1825, chapel on Grand, corner Columbia Street; 1828, church on Henry, corner of Scammel Street. "St. Philip's" (colored), 1805, building in William Street; then Cliff, between Ferry and Beekman streets; then Rose, near Pearl Street, site obliterated by

opening of South William, Duane, and Chambers streets; 1818, organized in accordance with Protestant Episcopal Church; then 31 Collect (Centre) Street, between Anthony and Leonard streets; 1821, burned; 1822, rebuilt; 1856, sold; 1857, No. 200 Mulberry, near Bleecker Street; and 1886, West Twenty-fifth Street, near Seventh Avenue. "St. Stephen's," 1806, corner Broome and First (Chrystie) streets, then consolidated with the "Advent" at Forty-sixth Street, near Sixth Avenue. "Grace," 1808, corner Broadway and Rector Street; 1846, Broadway and Tenth Street. "St. Michael's," 1807, Bloomingdale (Harsenville); 1810, at Sixty-ninth Street, between Third and Fourth avenues; 1869, Seventy-second Street, between Lexington and Third avenues, and 1884, corner Madison Avenue and Seventy-first Street; 1811, "St. James's" was added to "St. Michael's," and they were placed under one charge; 1853, burned; 1891, Ninety-ninth Street and Amsterdam Avenue. "Zion," 1810, corner of Mott and Cross (Park) streets, formerly Lutheran; built in 1801; 1815, burned; 1819, reconstructed; 1853, sold to Roman Catholics, and 1854, corner Madison Avenue and Thirty-eighth Street, now consolidated with "St. Timothy," 332 West Fifty-seventh Street; 1891, sold to Dutch Reformed. "St. Mary's," 1820, Manhattanville was added, 1823; and in 1825, "St. Ann's" at Fort Washington was also added, now extinct. "St. Luke's," 1822, Hudson, near Christopher Street, now a chapel; 1892, corner Convent Avenue and One Hundred and Forty-first Street.

The Episcopal Charity School, "Trinity," was founded in 1704.

Many Episcopal churches at this time were without chancels proper. There was an altar at the rear, with railings around it, where children were catechised, confirmation was administered, and the Communion received. In front was the pulpit, surmounting a column, in front of

which was the reading desk, which effectually hid the altar from the view of the congregation.

In the lower end there were two or three pews assigned to colored persons, and the doors were lettered "For B men."

In 1793 one hundred thousand pounds was received by the Corporation of Trinity Church, from the estate of John Leake, deceased, and from that time the interest of this sum has been expended in the purchase of bread to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish.

The donation is termed "The Leake Dole of bread."

Roman Catholic : "St. Peter's," formed, 1783; opened 1786, corner of Barclay and Church streets; 1838, rebuilt. "St. Patrick's," 1815, corner of Mott and Prince streets; later lengthened. "St. Mary's," 1826, formerly Seventh Presbyterian, in Sheriff, between Broome and Delancey streets, first Roman Catholic bell in the city; 1831, burned by a burglar; 1833, Grand, corner of Ridge Street. "Christ," purchased from Episcopalians 1827, 49 Ann, near Nassau Street; 1834, became unsafe for occupation and taken down; 1835, James Street.

Reformed Dutch : "Harlem," 1686, now "First," on One Hundred and Twenty-third Street and Third Avenue.

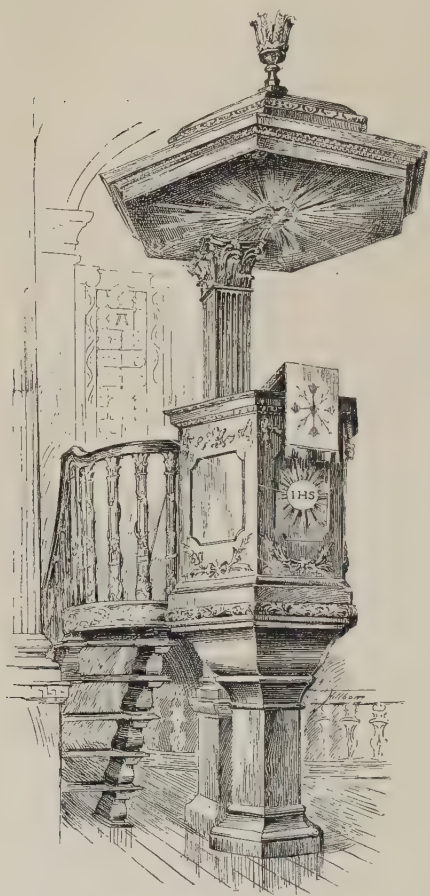
Reformed Protestant Dutch : 1824, "King" Street, near MacDougal Street, seceded and called itself "The True Reformed Dutch Church," and continued as such until it connected itself with a Western secession known as "The Christian Reformed Church"; removed to Perry Street. "Broome Street," 1824, corner of Broome and Greene streets; 1860, to 307 West Thirty-fourth Street near Eighth Avenue; 1895, sold to the Collegiate Church. "Houston Street," 1825, corner of Greene; 1854, Seventh Avenue, near Thirteenth Street; 1859, disbanded and building sold. "Manhattan," 1826, Third Street near Avenue D; 1872, sold. "Duane Street" (colored), 1826, school-

room near Hudson Street; 1828, disbanded. "Orchard Street," 1826, near Broome Street; 1833, sold.

Congregational: 1804, "Warren Street," near Broadway; 1809, Elizabeth, between Walker and Hester streets, as Presbyterian; 1814, sold to "Asbury," colored Methodists, burned. "Independent," 1818, rear of 488 Pearl Street; 1820, Vandewater Street; 1821, to Congregational. "Broadway," 1817, corner of Anthony Street, dissolved. "Providence Chapel," 1819, Hall, corner of Chapel (West Broadway) and Provost (Franklin) Street; 1823, 49 Thompson, near Broome Street. "Broome Street," 1817, Rose Street; 1820, Broome Street; 1822, dissolved. "Welsh," 1825, Mulberry Street, then Broome, near Bowery; 1833, Presbyterian. "Third," 1826, Third Street near Avenue D; 1827, sold to "Asbury," colored Methodists.

German Reformed: "First" (Calvinistic), organized 1758, 32 Nassau, between John Street and Maiden Lane; 1765, rebuilt; 1832, sold; 1823, 64-66 Forsyth Street, sold; 1834, decreed by the Vice-Chancellor to the Lutherans; 1844, decision reversed by Chancellor; 1844, decision reversed again by Court of Errors; 1861, Norfolk, between Stanton and Rivington streets. "Greenwich Street," 1803, Herring, corner Amos and Charles streets; 1826, sold to Presbyterians; and 1827, removed to Waverly Place near Grove Street; 1861, Forty-sixth Street, disbanded and sold to Episcopalians. "Bloomingdale" (Harsenville); 1805, Broadway, near Sixty-eighth Street; 1814, rebuilt; 1832, burned; now Boulevard, corner of Sixty-eighth Street. "Northwest," 1808, Franklin Street, between Church and Chapel (West Broadway); 1854, West Twenty-third Street; 1871, Madison Avenue and Fifty-eighth Street. "Market Street," 1810, corner of Henry Street; 1869, dissolved. "Vandewater Street," 1820, formerly Congregational.

Lutheran: "First," 1660, in Fort Amsterdam. "Trinity," 1671, log church, southwest corner of Broad-



PULPIT IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

way and Rector Street; 1741, rebuilt; burned in the great fire in 1776; 1805, ground sold to Grace Episcopal Church; 1744, congregation divided, part to an old brewery in Skinner Road (Cliff Street); 1767, reunited as "Christ" or "Old Swamp Church," corner of Frankfort and William streets (see page 100), sold to colored Presbyterians; 1822, removed to "St. Matthew's" (Evangelical) Lutheran, Walker Street, between Broadway and Elm Street, now corner of Broome and Elizabeth streets; 1826, sold. "St. James," 1827, Orange Street, between Hester and Grand streets, building donated by Peter Lorillard; abandoned, 1848; then Mulberry, near Grand Street; 1857, Fifteenth Street, opposite Stuyvesant Square, now (1895) southwest corner of Madison

way and Rector Street; 1741, rebuilt; burned in the great fire in 1776; 1805, ground sold to Grace Episcopal Church; 1744, congregation divided, part to an old brewery in Skinner Road (Cliff Street); 1767, reunited as "Christ" or "Old Swamp Church," corner of Frankfort and William streets (see page 100), sold to colored Presbyterians; 1822, removed to "St. Matthew's" (Evangelical) Lutheran, Walker Street, between Broadway and Elm Street, now corner of Broome and Elizabeth streets; 1826, sold. "St. James," 1827, Orange Street, between Hester and Grand streets, building donated by

Avenue and Seventy-third Street. "Zion," 1797, corner of Mott and Cross (Park) streets; 1801, consecrated; 1810, changed to "Zion Episcopal."

The trustees of the Lutheran "Old Swamp Church" in its early days were offered a plot of ground of about six acres in Canal Street near Broadway, a part of the Lispenard Meadows; and the Board passed the following resolution: "That it was inexpedient to accept the gift, inasmuch as the land was not worth fencing in."

Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church: Organized, 1628; chartered, 1696; site of first church, 1633, on Pearl Street (now No. 33); 1642, the "Church in the Fort," known as "St. Nicholas' Church." "South Church," 1693, Garden Alley (Garden Street), Exchange Place;* 1766, enlarged; 1807, rebuilt; 1812, independent of the Collegiate Church; 1835, burned in the great fire, congregation divided, part building in Washington Square and part in Murray Street; then corner of Fifth Avenue and Twenty-first Street. "Middle," 1729, Nassau, between Cedar and Liberty Streets; 1790, renewed; 1845, rented to United States for Post-office; 1861, sold; 1882, taken down. "North," 1769, on William, between Fulton and Ann Streets; 1875, site leased and building removed; 1839, Lafayette Place and Fourth Street; 1887, site leased and building taken down; 1854, Fifth Avenue and Twenty-ninth Street.

Presbyterian: "First," City Hall, 1716, Wall Street, near Broadway; 1748, enlarged; 1810, rebuilt; 1834,

* In Garden Street (Exchange Place) there was a free school organized in 1663, and in 1784 the Church built one opposite to it, which was removed to Duane Street and in 1835 to Canal, corner of Elm Street; 1847, on Fourth Street; 1861, Twenty-ninth Street and Seventh Avenue; now (1892) corner of Seventy-seventh Street and West End Avenue, and known as the "Collegiate School."

burned and rebuilt; 1844, sold; 1846, Fifth Avenue, between Eleventh and Twelfth streets. "Scotch," organized, 1756; Cedar Street No. 33, 1837, corner of Crosby and Grand streets; 1853, on West Fourteenth Street, corner Sixth Avenue; now (1895), Ninety-fifth and Ninety-sixth streets, and Central Park West. "Brick,"* 1768, Chatham (Park Row) Street; 1854, sold; 1858, corner of Fifth Avenue and Thirty-seventh Street. "First Associate Presbyterian," 1787, "Nassau Street," near Maiden Lane; 1803, rebuilt; 1824, sold to Baptists, 1853, "Grand Street," corner Grand and Mercer streets; 1867, "Fourth," Thirty-fourth Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues; 1893, Ninety-first Street and West End Avenue. "Rutgers Street," 1797, established; 1798, corner of Henry Street; 1842, rebuilt; 1870, "Madison Avenue" (by James Lenox), corner of Twenty-ninth Street, united with it as "Rutgers Church," built and sold in 1888; now corner of Boulevard and Seventy-third Street. "Pearl Street" (Associate), 1797, No. 550 Magazine (Pearl), between Elm Street and Broadway; 1837, burned and rebuilt. "Chambers Street," 1801, opposite New York Institution, near Broadway; 1818, rebuilt; 1826, congregation divided, one part Sixth Street (Waverly Place); 1835, Chambers Street, sold and removed to Prince, corner of Marion Street; 1849, sold and rebuilt in Twelfth Street near Sixth Avenue. "Cedar Street" (Associate), 1808, between William and Nassau streets; 1834, sold; 1836, corner of Duane and Church streets, as "Duane Street Church"; 1852, corner of Nineteenth

* In 1811, on the occurrence of the great fire in Chatham Street, a flake from it rested on the steeple of this church, which becoming inflamed, a sailor from the crowd of spectators below ascended the steeple, extinguished the fire, and, when he descended, declined to give his name. The plot on which this church was located consisted of about three-fourths of an acre, sold in 1854 for one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, and in one year after for three hundred and fifty thousand.

Street; and 1875, corner of Fifty-fifth Street and Fifth Avenue. "Canal Street" (Irish), 1809, Orange, near Grand Street; 1825, Canal and Greene streets. "Spring Street" (Old), 1811, near Varick Street; 1825, removed to and known as "Laight Street," corner of Varick Street; 1843, dissolved, and sold to Baptists. "Cedar Street," near Broadway, 1812; then (Scotch Associate), No. 37 Murray Street, opposite Columbia College; 1841, taken down and rebuilt in Eighth Street, opposite Lafayette Place; vacated and sold. "Seventh Church," 1818, organized in house, Grand, near Lewis Street; 1819, Sheriff, between Broome and Delancey streets; 1826, sold to Roman Catholics; 1827, corner of Broome and Ridge streets; 1831, burned and rebuilt. "Allen Street," 1820, Bancker (Madison) Street; 1823, removed to Allen, corner of Grand Street; 1832, rebuilt; now Forsyth Street. "Eighth," organized 1819; 1821, Christopher, near Asylum Street; 1841, sold to St. Matthew's; 1842,



"SOUTH CHURCH," GARDEN STREET. BURNED IN THE FIRE OF 1835

disbanded. "Vandewater Street," 1821, near Frankfort Street; 1823, withdrawn from the Presbytery; 1825, revived; 1825, dissolved. "Central," 1822, Broome, near Elm Street, now West Fifty-seventh Street, near Seventh Avenue. "Village," 1822, near North River and Le Roy Street, then as Tabernacle Church; 1830, disbanded. "Bowery," 1822; 1861, sold and dissolved. "Provost Street," 1823, near Chapel Street (West Broadway); 1825, sold and dissolved. "Bleecker Street," 1825, near Broadway, then Fourth Avenue, corner Twenty-second Street. "Spring Street," Scotch (new), 1825, Spring, near Varick Street. "Welsh" (Calvinistic), 1833, Broome Street, near Bowery, now 225 East Thirteenth Street. "First" (colored), 1824, Elm, near Canal Street; 1825, sold to Jews' synagogue (Benai Jeshurun); 1830, purchased the Swamp Church, corner Frankfort and William streets.

Methodist Episcopal: 1767, Rigging loft in Horse and Cart Street (120 William), between John and Fair (Fulton) streets; 1768-70, "Wesley Chapel" or "John Street," between Nassau and William streets (the first Methodist church in America); 1817-18, rebuilt; 1841, rebuilt smaller. 1789, "Forsyth Street" ("Second Street" and "Bowery") in Second (Forsyth), near Division Street; 1833, rebuilt; 1873, altered and cut down. 1797, "Duane Street" ("North Church," "North River Church," and "Hudson Church"), Barley (Duane), between Hudson and Greenwich streets; abandoned and sold; "Duane Church," its successor, 1863, Hudson, near Spring Street. "Seventh Street" ("Two-Mile Stone," "Bowery Village"), a school house and room; 1795, Nicholas William, between Seventh and Eighth streets and Second and Third avenues; 1817, church built beside it with part of material of first church in John Street; 1830, removed; 1836-37, Seventh Street, between Second and Third avenues. 1810, "Bedford

Street" ("Greenwich Village"), corner of Bedford and Morton streets; 1830, enlarged; 1840, new building. 1810-11, "Allen Street" ("Fourth Street,") between Delancey and Rivington streets; 1836-37, rebuilt; 1888, removed to Rivington between Ludlow and Orchard streets, and named "Allen Street Memorial"; original church sold to and refitted by a Jewish synagogue. 1819, "Willett Street," occupied a mission house leased of Presbyterians, Broome, near Lewis Street; 1826, Willett Street. 1820, "The Methodist Society" (Stillwellite), school room in Chrystie Street, then church in Chrystie, between Pump (Canal) and Hester streets; eventually dissolved. 1824, a second church in "Sullivan Street" (Stillwellite), near Spring Street; 1830, joined the Methodist Protestant Church; 1839, sold and rebuilt in same street, near Bleecker; 1842, joined the Methodist Episcopal Church as "Sullivan Street"; 1860, "Washington Square," Fourth Street between Sixth Avenue and Washington Square.

African Methodist Episcopal: "Zion," 1796, occupied a house in Cross (Park), between Mulberry and Orange (Baxter) streets; 1800, organized, then at corner of Church and Leonard streets; 1820, rebuilt; 1839, burned; 1840, rebuilt; 1864, removed to Bleecker, corner Tenth Street; 1813, a branch formed in Elizabeth near Pump (Canal) Street; 1820, rejoined; 1822, again separated. "Asbury," divided and known as "Asbury Church"; 1820, united with "Zion"; 1823, Elizabeth Street church burned; then "Broadway Tabernacle," then hall corner of Elizabeth and Grand streets, then in hall on Howard Street, then Fourth Street, then Third Street near Avenue D. 1820, "Mott Street" near Walker Street; then burned; then Elizabeth Street; 1835, Second Street.

Unitarian: "First Congregational," 1821, Chambers, near Church Street; 1843, sold; now "All Souls," cor-

ner Twentieth Street and Fourth Avenue. "Church of Divine Unity," 1845, Broadway, between Prince and Spring streets. "Church of the Messiah," a colony from the First Congregational, 1826, Prince, corner Mercer Street; 1837, burned; 1839, Broadway, near Waverly Place, then 1865 sold; 1867, Park Avenue and East Thirty-fourth Street.

Baptist: 1724, a church organized, then a house on Golden Hill (Gold and John streets); 1732, dissolved and church sold. "First," 1760, 29 Gold, between Fulton and John streets; 1802, rebuilt; 1840, sold and taken down; 1841, Broome, corner of Elizabeth Street. "Second," 1770, Rose Street; 1791, then divided as "The Bethel Church," and the Rose Street party as the "The Baptist Church in Fayette (1821, Oliver) Street." 1806, the Rose Street congregation built in Broome, near the Bowery; 1820, Delancey, corner of Chrystie Street; 1830, divided, one party going to Mott, then to Chrystie Street; the other retained the church in Delancey Street, which was abandoned, and ultimately sold for a stable; and the congregation removed to "The Sixth Street." "Oliver Street Church," 1795, corner of Henry Street; 1800, rebuilt; 1819, rebuilt; 1843, burned and rebuilt. "Scotch Baptist," 1803, building in Greenwich Street; divided and part termed themselves the "Ebenezer Baptists"; 1806, Anthony, near Chapel Street, sold; then in York Street, and known as "York Street Church"; 1825, hall, corner of Broadway and Reade Street; then hall in Canal, near Vandam Street, then Houston Street, and then Broadway, near Bleecker Street. "Welsh Bethlehem," 1807, 68 Mott Street, between Bayard and Pump (Canal) Street; 1813, dissolved. "North Church," 1809, Vandam near Varick Street; 1818, name of "Beriah" added; 1819, burned; 1820, rebuilt on Macdougall, near Vandam Street. "Mulberry Street,"

near Chatham, 1809; organized as "James Street Church," 1838; dissolved, 1838; then as the "Tabernacle Baptist Church," 1853, a part of congregation purchased Laight Street Church, corner of Varick, of the Presbyterians. "Zoar" Church, 1811, Rose Street;



REFORMED DUTCH "MIDDLE," CEDAR STREET

1812, dissolved. "South Baptist," organized 1822, in German church in Nassau Street, near Maiden Lane; 1724, Nassau, between Fulton and John streets, built by Presbyterians in 1803. "Union Church," 1823, Bowery, opposite Spring Street; 1831, burned, then Mott above Spring Street; 1834, Stanton Street, near Forsyth, and known as "Stanton Street Church."

"Provost (Franklin) Street," near Chapel Street (West Broadway); 1825, bought by Communion Baptists; 1832, leased, and 1838, sold to Reformed Presbyterians. "Ebenezer Baptist," organized 1825; 1838, Avenue A, near Second Street. "Abyssinian" (colored), 1809, Ebenezer, or York Street, Church Building, 44 Anthony, near Chapel Street, sold at auction and regained.

Friends' Meeting Houses: "Liberty Street," 1703, Crown (Little Greene) Street, now Liberty Place; 1794, rebuilt on Liberty Street; 1802, rebuilt; 1826, sold to Grant Thorburn, the seedsman. 1775, "Pearl Street," near Franklin Square; 1824, taken down; 1826, removed to "Rose Street," near Pearl; then, 1860, East Sixteenth Street and Rutherford Place. "Hester Street," 1819, corner Elizabeth Street; 1861, sold to New York Gas Light Co., and, 1884, transferred to Consolidated Gas Co. "United Christian Friends," or "The Society of Christian Friends," Prince, near Orange Street.

Universalist: "First," 1796, Vandewater Street, near Frankfort; 1803, purchased from the Lutherans, No. 488 Magazine (Pearl) near Cross Street; sold to "Zion" (colored) Presbyterian, prior to 1810, corner Augustus (City Hall Place) and Duane streets; 1837, rented to Welsh Baptists, then to a hall in Forsyth Street, then the church sold to Roman Catholics and society dissolved. "Second," 1824, Prince, corner of Marion Street; 1830, sold to Presbyterians.

Mariners': 1819, Roosevelt Street, No. 76; then, 1854, Catherine Street, No. 46.

New Jerusalem: "Swedenborgian," Broadway, near Rector Street; 1816, Broadway near Duane Street, then,

1821, in Pearl, near Augustus (City Hall Place) Street; 1845, sold to Zion Baptists; then in various places and then Eighth Street, near Fourth Avenue; now, 1859, East Thirty-fifth Street, near Park Avenue.

Moravian: "First," 1739, organized; 1751, 108 Fair (Fulton) Street; 1752, dedicated; 1829, rebuilt; 1843, sold; 1845, southwest corner Houston and Mott streets; 1865, sold; 1869, corner of Lexington Avenue and Thirtieth Street, purchased from the Episcopalians (which had been erected by the Baptists, in about 1825). "United Christian Brethren," Third, near Lewis Street.

Jews' Synagogue: Prior to 1682 "Shearith Israël," 19 Mill (South William) Street; 1706, removed; 1729, rebuilt; 1818, rebuilt; 1834, Crosby, near Spring Street; 1860, Nineteenth Street, near Fifth Avenue. "Benai Jeshurun," 1824, Greene Street.

It was reported that the "Holy Light" in this synagogue had by some accident or unavoidable occurrence been extinguished, and as a consequence it became necessary to obtain a like light from the nearest synagogue, and one was received from Philadelphia.

This synagogue possesses four graveyards, the continued retention of which, in view of the readiness with which some Christian churches have sold theirs, has evoked much comment. The "First" (Beth Haim) 1656, corner of Bancker and Fayette (Madison and Oliver) streets; 1729, more ground adjoining was purchased, some of which was subsequently sold; a "Second," corner of Gold and Jacob streets, but not used; a "Third," on Sixth Avenue, near Eleventh Street, but partly used; and "Fourth," on Twenty-first Street, near Sixth Avenue. When the Common Council prohibited interment within the city limits, 1852, removed to Cypress Hills, L. I.

While some Episcopal, Dutch Reformed, Presbyterian, and Unitarian churches have been removed from the lower part of the city, their sites sold, and new edifices constructed uptown—apparently with greater regard to the prominence of the location than to the field of their usefulness—the Roman Catholic Church, with that zeal and singleness of purpose in its advancement which has ever distinguished it, has not deviated from its mission here, by the blandishment of a fashionable congregation. It has not only retained existing churches, but has obtained others, in locations where a dense population and the prospect of useful work seem to have been the guide. “St George’s” and the “Brick Church” in Beekman Street; the “Cedar Street” in Duane, and the Dutch and Presbyterian churches in Murray Street, were removed more to meet the wishes of a portion of their members than to the advantage of their churches; the latter, removed to head of Lafayette Place, was converted to a theatre.

The “Church of the Messiah” was bought by A. T. Stewart and converted to a theatre, also the “Amity Street” Baptist, converted to a stable. “Pearl Street” Meeting House was bought by Messrs. Appleton, and the Broome Street, corner of Greene, by the Merchants’ Express Co.

In connection with the Episcopal churches, of which I can write from observation, it may not be amiss to refer to some of the clergymen. Of Bishops Hobart, Onderdonk, and Wainwright, I have treated in other chapters. The popular clergymen of the time in this Church were Drs. James Milnor of St. George’s, Beekman Street, and Schroeder of Trinity Parish, who, with Onderdonk, Berrian, and Bishop Hobart, alternated between Trinity Church; St. Paul’s and St. John’s chapels, and Dr. Wainwright occupied the pulpit of Grace Church. Subsequent to this Dr. Schroeder resigned and assumed the pastorate

of a church in the upper part of the city; his popularity ceased, and his position was filled by Dr. Higbee. It is related that, when Dr. Milnor died, the city newspapers displayed their mourning by "turning their column rules."

The service in these churches was very different from that observed by nearly all of the present time (1895). Thus: the ritual of the Common Prayer Book was uniformly and strictly adhered to at all times, whether Communion was to be administered or not, which Sacrament was administered only on the first Sunday in the month, and at Christmas and Easter; and, excepting during Lent, the church doors were never opened for other than burial service from their closing Sunday evening to the next Sunday morning, and in religious, moral, social position, and in integrity, I fail to recognize any improvement in the people at this time.



ÉGLISE DU ST. ESPRIT, PINE STREET

CHAPTER XI

1827.—WILLIAM PAULDING, MAYOR

THE city's expenditure for the year amounted to \$1,179,634.65; the receipts to \$1,149,631.39; and the debt remained at \$1,483,800. In the three city watch districts there were 468 men, 6 captains, and 12 assistants.

Washington Square was opened, great part of which had been occupied as the Potter's Field, the remainder, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres, being purchased for \$78,000. As bearing on the value of city real estate at this time I quote the following passage from a letter with which Mr. Edmund Hendricks has obliged me. Mr. Hendricks writes: "I find an entry on the Ledger of my Grandfather, Mr. Harmon Hendricks, under date of June 4, 1827, 'Paid J. C. Hamilton, McEvers and S. Ward, Executors of Estate of J. C. Vandenheuvcl for 66 full lots, and a number of strips adjoining my farm up to the centre of 79th Street; and half the front on 11th Avenue, \$8,361.15.'" At a later date, in or about 1833, Burnham removed his noted hostelry from Broadway and Seventieth Street to this Vandenheuvcl mansion at Seventy-eighth Street, becoming the tenant of Mr. Harmon Hendricks at a rent of \$600 per annum. I cannot now give the period when Burnham first opened his hostelry, but it was anterior to 1825.

It was now seriously urged by many that the city could be supplied with sufficient pure and wholesome water from the Bronx River, since it was computed that it would furnish above four million gallons per diem; and by the lowering of Rye Pond and the aid of dams, etc., nearly nine million gallons could be obtained.

Hack fares at this date were twenty-five cents a single passage for any distance not exceeding one mile; for more than a mile, fifty cents; additional passengers twenty-five cents each.

Evan Jones of 53 White Street commenced running a line of stages from Broadway and Houston Street to Wall Street. Abraham Brower of 661 Broadway also put on a line from the corner of Houston Street and Broadway to Wall Street, corner of William. In a few years after he replaced his early stages with new, larger, and more convenient ones, drawn by four horses. When the streets were sufficiently covered with snow, the stages were replaced with large sleighs drawn by four or six horses, and the frolics of a country sleigh-ride were moderately indulged in. For full thirty years these great sleighs were a striking winter characteristic of Broadway.

January 15 Mme. Malibran appeared at the "Bowery" Theatre in English opera, again exciting the liveliest interest and attracting great audiences.

February 1 a ball was given at the "Bowery" Theatre in aid of the Greek Fund, and on the 22d another at the Park Theatre; they were well and fashionably attended, equalled in character and brilliancy only by the *fête* to Lafayette at Castle Garden in 1824.

The Common Council considered the construction of a market at the foot of Canal Street and one (the Clinton) was finally located there; it also proposed to close the sewer in Maiden Lane and lead the surface water to the side gutters.

February 8 Mme. Hutin, a celebrated *danseuse* from Paris, appeared at the New York ("Bowery") Theatre in "The Roaming Shepherds." Although, when compared with the dress of ballet-girls and nymphs of the stage of the present day, her dress might be held to be unexceptionable, and even be approved by a prude of 1896, yet

its style was so different from that to which we were accustomed in this country as to cause a furor to see her. The novelty of her manner of dancing and the character of her dress were not only the theme of talk and discussion for a long while, but they led to a very general discussion in the newspapers. In fact, if she had appeared as some female characters do now (as early as 1880), the scene that was exhibited at the Drury Lane Theatre, London, a century ago, upon the first appearance of "The Beggars' Opera" would in all probability have been enacted here. The theatre at this date opened at half-past six.

March 5 an Arcade, which had been in course of construction for some months, was opened from Maiden Lane to John Street, in the block about one hundred feet east of Broadway; it had not the success that had been anticipated and survived but a few years.

March 12 Jacob Barker was tried for libel, and convicted on the 10th of the following month.

Andrew Colvin, who had operated a stage from Wall Street to the upper part of Broadway, was constrained to abandon the enterprise.

March 18 the "Greek Committee," as it was termed, that is, the association of citizens who were selected to solicit and receive donations for the benefit of the Greeks in their resistance to the Turks, despatched the ship *Chancellor* to Greece with provisions, etc.

March 23 the steamboat *Oliver Ellsworth*, from Saybrook, Conn., to this city, collapsed a flue of her boiler and scalded several persons. When the boiler was repaired, her owner had a piece of the copper plate of which the furnaces were constructed heated and doubled, and displayed it in the captain's office as a sample of the copper of her boiler, leading to the natural inference with laymen that it was of the exceptional thickness shown, and consequently comparatively safe.

Whereas, the thinner the metal plates of a boiler, consistent with their resistance to a normal stress, the safer they are, as they then more readily transmit the heat of the furnace, and consequently are less liable



BROADWAY STAGE AND TATTERSALL'S

than thick ones to be injured by the burning of the metal.

Third, Seventh, Tenth, and Twenty-first streets were ordered to be opened on May 1.

In April Levi Disbrow, who had been employed to bore for water for factories in neighboring towns, began a series of borings here, with a view to convince our citizens of the practicability of obtaining a sufficiency of water for their wants by such an operation, and a pipe was sunk in Broadway, opposite Bond Street.

April 2 the steamboat *Washington*, Captain E. S. Bunker, made the run from Providence here in eighteen

hours, whereby Boston newspapers were received here in twenty-two hours; the performance was held to be worthy of public notice. A ferry-boat from Christopher Street to Hoboken, the *Fairy Queen*, commenced running about this time, but the exact period has escaped me; probably a year earlier, but not later.

May 1 the Merchants' Exchange building in Wall Street was opened. July 4 the Post office was installed in part of the basement of this building; rent of letter boxes four dollars per annum. Following the completion of the Exchange the marine telegraph previously communicating from Staten Island to the Battery was extended from Wall Street to Sandy Hook *via* Staten Island. My readers will of course understand not the modern telegraph familiar to them, but the old-fashioned instruments for signalling to the eye aided by a telescope.

May 8 Captain John B. Nicholson, U. S. N., presented the city with four granite balls which were alleged to have been taken from the ruins of Tröy; they were set upon the four granite columns at the gates leading to the southern entrance to the Park.

The Legislature constructed the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Wards.

May 24, in consequence of the unusual number of strangers visiting the city, from the somewhat diverse causes of the yearly meetings of the Quakers and the coming races at the Union Course, the papers of the day published a list of the places of interest to visitors. To illustrate the difference in the number and character of these between that time and the present I recite those that were given; *viz.*, American Academy of Arts, Brouwer's Gallery of Busts, Scudder's and Peale's Museums, Spectaculum in Chatham Street, Athenæum, City Library, Automatic Chess Players, Sea Serpent, Dwarf, and Wonderful Ox. There were two museums in

full operation at this time; *viz.*, Scudder's in the City Almshouse, before referred to, and Peale's in Broadway. Each sported a band of music with which to beguile visitors, and each vied with the other in the effectiveness and supremacy of their bands. When one opened with "The Star Spangled Banner," the other was sure to follow with "Yankee Doodle." Probably in musical quality these bands may not have been superior to the later one of Barnum, which daily blew with great persistency from the gallery of the American Museum at Broadway and Ann Street. Of the quality of that one, my readers who do not know it may judge from the following story, which is *ben trovato*, if not true. An ambitious young cornet-player applied to Barnum for an engagement and was agreeably surprised at finding little difficulty made by the great showman, and ready employment on liberal terms. The young musician played steadily for more than a week, when, receiving no hint of salary, he inquired of Barnum concerning that subject. "Pay!" said Barnum, "I pay you! Nothing of the sort. You are to pay me. You seem not to understand, my young friend, that my band is made up of men who are learning their instruments, and want a good outdoor place for practice and to get the hang of playing together. They are glad enough to pay, and of course they ought to be, for there is no such chance in America for an industrious musician to advance in his art as in the band of Barnum's great American Museum."

May 31 the circus in Broadway was converted to a Theatre and termed the Broadway, and subsequently converted to a stable and horse market and named Tattersall's (see illustration, page 217).

June 27 Mlle. Celeste, a *danseuse* and actress from Paris, made her *début* at the "Bowery" Theatre. The high reputation she acquired here was confirmed on her return to Europe, though she was then very young. She

married an American gentleman, and was again at the "Bowery" late in 1834. In 1838 she was again here, and in the autumn of 1851, when she was at the Broadway Theatre.

Street gas-lamps were first lighted in this month.

July 4 the "Bowery" Theatre was opened for a day performance for the first time, and this was the first theatrical *matinée* ever given in this country. On this day negro slavery in the State was abolished.

August 27 Cliff Street was opened from Ferry into Skinner, and both were known as Cliff Street thenceforth. Cheapside was changed to Hamilton Street.

Miss Suydam, daughter of John Suydam of this city, while on a tour to Trenton Falls, in passing around the amphitheatre fell into the basin below, receiving fatal injury. The youth of the lady, added to her social position and accomplishments, evoked regret and a very general sympathy for the parents.

September 11 Clara Fisher, afterward Mrs. Maeder, appeared at the Park Theatre as a "youthful prodigy," in the character of *Albina Mandeville*, in which she exhibited unwonted precocity and became a great favorite. Of her it was written:

"A charming young Fisher a-fishing has come
From the land of our fathers, her sea-circled home ;
She uses no line and she uses no hook,
But she catches her prey with a smile and a look."

Clara Fisher became the fashion, and for several years enjoyed popularity without measure, and most justly. In the lighter characters of opera and comedy, and in boys' parts, she was unsurpassed. She was last at the Park in the season of 1840-41, but late in 1844 appeared there as *Lydia Languish* at the benefit of her sister Mrs. Vernon. Later Mrs. Maeder returned to the stage, and was seen during the fifties, or perhaps even later.

September 12 another mainstay of our stage—George Holland—made his first appearance at the “Bowery,” and became a chief attraction at Mitchell’s Olympic Theatre.

Boston Road, from One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street to Harlem River, was closed in this year. Henry Street was widened. The Manhattan Market at Goerck, Rivington, Stanton, and Mangin streets was built. This market was named after the neighboring Manhattan Island, and I may explain here to the young gentlemen from the country who furnish the “city news” for most of our newspapers, and in doing it betray no knowledge of the town earlier than that acquired the year before, that Manhattan Island and the Island of Manhattan are very different things. The former title was given to a knoll of land lying nearly within the lines of the present Houston, Third, and Lewis streets, which at very high tides was insulated. For many years the name was by extension applied also to the near-by territory; that part of the city lying adjacent to the knoll being familiarly termed Manhattan Island.

The editorial staff of the New York *Mirror and Ladies’ Literary Gazette* before referred to (1823), being added to by Gulian C. Verplanck, Charles Fenno Hoffman, and James Fenimore Cooper, the paper was popular and well patronized.

September 13. The Law Committee of the Board of Aldermen recommended the erection of an additional or Superior Court and the appointment of a Vice-chancellor. It was also proposed by the board to authorize a new ferry to Brooklyn from the foot of Whitehall Street, to be known as the South Ferry, but it was so violently opposed by Stephen Whitney, Jacob Nevius, and many other residents of the lower part of the city, that the project was delayed for some years. The arguments or objections submitted were, first, that it was wholly unnecessary, and secondly, that in the winter season

the slip would be so blocked with ice as to render it impracticable for the boats to enter. There was a force in this position that persons of the present day whose recollection does not include a period of fifty years cannot recognize, from the circumstance I have already mentioned, that at that time there were but few ferry-boats and fewer steamboats running in the winter season, and no tow-boats; hence the ice-fields in the river were not broken up as they were even a few years later, and are still more at the present time.

September 29. The Lafayette Theatre was entirely rebuilt during this summer, with an imposing granite front and a stage 120 feet deep and 100 feet wide, the largest then existing in either England or America. The renewed house, thought to be the finest in this country, was opened.

October 3 Miss Kelly from London appeared at the Park Theatre.

At a meeting of citizens a committee of fourteen was appointed to select a delegation from its number to proceed to New Orleans on the 8th of January ensuing (the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans), and present its congratulations to General Andrew Jackson; and Messrs. Saul Alley, Thaddeus Phelps, and James A. Hamilton were selected.

October 9 Mme. Malibran began a brief final engagement here, at the "Bowery" Theatre. Mr. Malibran's financial distress had compelled her to resort again to her art as a means of livelihood, and for some time she had sung in the choir of Grace Church. Her last appearance here was the 28th, at her benefit. The few remaining who knew this artist will agree that not only her voice and grand style of singing, but also her face, form, and gesture produced an impression that will remain while memory endures.

October 28 a duel was fought under the bluff at Wee-

hawken Heights on a spot then and for some time afterward well known as the duelling-ground; it was there General Alexander Hamilton fell in his duel with Aaron Burr, Richard Riker was wounded by Robert Swartwout, and General Swartwout and Wm. Maxwell and others had fought. The parties were Wm. G. Graham, associate editor with M. M. Noah in the New York *Enquirer*, seconded by Louis Atterbury, and a Mr. Barton of Philadelphia, seconded by Wm. E. McLeod. Mr. Graham falling at the second fire, his body was ferried across the river to about Forty-second Street, or the French tan-yards, as the locality was termed.

November 8 a new version of "Der Freischütz" was produced at the Park, with Charles E. Horn as *Caspar*, a capital performance. Horn was long admired here, while his voice lasted.

In December Mr. Youle, the proprietor of the shot-tower at East Fifty-fourth Street, advertised the sale of some lots in its immediate vicinity, and in order to advise probable purchasers of the locality and how to reach it he published that it was the Spring Valley property on the Old Post Road near the four-mile stone, and that conveyances would be furnished.

December 11 Timothy B. Redmond, proprietor of the United States Hotel in Pearl Street (not the present hotel in Fulton Street), who had been arrested on an indictment for robbery, was arraigned, and his trial postponed. This is mentioned from the circumstance that on his trial at a later date (January 17) it appeared that his arrest, imprisonment, and trial were solely due to his resemblance to a noted thief. From the time of his arrest to that of his acquittal the case was the cause of much discussion and speculation, as there was a large number of our citizens who were disposed to believe him guilty. He was honorably acquitted, however, in the January following.

Some hotel-keepers and friends subscribed and gave him a dinner, and some time afterward "Old Hays," as he was known, arrested a man who proved to be the one who had forged and presented the checks. On examination he proved to resemble Redmond in a very decided manner. In the interval between his incarceration and trial many stories were related of acts of Redmond, which were all construed as evidence of a previous course of criminality, and he was socially and financially ruined.

William C. Bryant, who came to the city in 1826, became a partner and associate editor in the *Evening Post*.

December 18 Henry Eckford, considering himself aggrieved by the manner in which the District Attorney, Hugh Maxwell, had conducted the prosecution against him and others (before referred to), and some subsequent offensive declarations as alleged, caused a challenge to be delivered to him, which was declined.

The widening of Nassau and Liberty streets was proposed by the Common Council.

The *Journal of Commerce* on September 1 was established by Arthur Tappan as a great moral and abolition paper, and it was announced that lottery and like notices and advertisements would be excluded. In 1828 it was purchased and edited by Hale & Hallock, absorbing *The Times*, which had been published for a brief period before. The publication office was at No. 2 Merchants' Exchange, and work was not permitted in it between 12 P. M., Saturday, and 12 P. M., Sunday. The *Journal of Commerce* and the *Enquirer*, in their competitive efforts to publish the first news of arrivals by sea, employed small sailing vessels to cruise off Sandy Hook, carrying reporters to board the incoming ships.

The principal hotels at this period were the Adelphi, corner Broadway and Beaver Street; Mansion House, at 39 Broadway (see page 394), by W. I. Bunker; City Hotel, site of Boreel Building, in Broadway, by Chester Jennings;

National Hotel, 112 Broadway; Franklin House, corner Broadway and Dey Street, by McNeil Seymour; American Hotel, corner Broadway and Barclay Street; Washington Hall, on Broadway, corner Reade Street; Park Place House, corner Broadway and Park Place; Pearl Street House, 86-88 Pearl Street; Niblo's Bank Coffee House, Pine, corner William Street; New York Coffee House, William Street, near Beaver; Tontine Coffee House, in Wall Street, corner Water Street; New York Hotel, Greenwich Street,



BROADWAY, NEAR PRINCE STREET, WEST SIDE, 1830

between Dey and Cortlandt streets; Northern Hotel, West, corner of Cortlandt Street; Walton House, in Pearl Street, near Peck Slip; Tammany Hall, corner Nassau and Frankfort streets; New England Hotel, Water Street, between Fulton Street and Peck Slip; United States Hotel, Pearl Street, near Maiden Lane.

The schism in the Quakers between "Orthodox" and "Hicksites" resulted in the former building a house in Henry Street; the latter party retaining possession of the existing houses, which were subsequently sold and the present buildings erected on Rutherford Place and Six-

teenth Street, and East Twentieth Street and Gramercy Park.

When the Exchange was completed, Exchange Street to Broad was named Exchange Place.

An association of ladies, members of the Wall Street Church, organized a Sunday-school some years previous to this; but it was in this year absorbed by the American Sunday-school Union.

In this year died Thomas Addis Emmet, the Irish orator.

The secretary of an insurance company in this city, who was afflicted with the gambling mania, lost in one evening a sum said to have exceeded fifty thousand dollars; soon after it was discovered he was deficient fully three times that amount; the directors caused him to be arrested and imprisoned, and soon after he committed suicide.



STATE PRISON, WASHINGTON STREET

CHAPTER XII

1828-1829.—WILLIAM PAULDING, 1828-1829, AND
WALTER BOWNE, 1829, MAYORS

1828. JANUARY 2 Mrs. Austin of London appeared at the Park Theatre in "Love in a Village." She was a charming vocalist as well as actress, and became very popular, and remained in this country until 1835.

At this time the nomination of General Andrew Jackson for the Presidency at the coming convention was so well assured that unusual interest was manifested in the customary annual dinner at Tammany Hall, on the 8th of January, in commemoration of the battle of New Orleans. It was attended by the magnates of the Republican (Democratic) party, presided over by Benjamin Bailey.

In the month of February there were thirty-four packet-ships trading between this port and London, Liverpool, and Havre.

A faction of the Democratic party who were in the habit of meeting at the "Pewter Mug" in Frankfort Street, combined with the Administration or Adams men and some anti-Masons, defeated some of the Tammany candidates for office. Hence the term "Pewter Muggers."

March 31, West Street extended to the Great Kill Road (Greenwich Street).

A. M. Bailey in Hudson Street advertised a grate, designed for the combustion of anthracite coal, which was the first construction of one suited for this new fuel, then gradually being introduced into domestic use. In

December of this year the first product of the Delaware and Hudson mines was received in New York. January 16 a meeting of the Common Council convened in consequence of the death of Governor Clinton, a resolution was passed inviting Bishop Hobart of the Episcopal Church to deliver an eulogium on the deceased, which he declined to do, as he held that such and like deliveries were "a prostitution of religion to the purpose of secular policy." It is very questionable if a bishop or clergyman at the present day would decline such an opportunity to signalize himself. Dr. Hosack delivered the eulogium.

Game of all kinds was more plentiful at this time than since the multiplying of railroads and steamboats has afforded facility for visiting neighboring districts. Thus,



CITY HALL PARK IN 1817

a party of two, in one of the ponds on the south side of Long Island, in two days' fishing, killed 111 trout, weighing 60 pounds, one of which weighed 10 pounds 6 ounces.

Roasted chestnuts were first sold in the streets by a Frenchman who made his appearance in or about this year, and established himself on the sidewalk, corner of Duane Street and Broadway, selling at first only the large chestnuts of the Spanish or French variety. He became so well identified as the originator of this street industry that, upon his death, which occurred not many years since, it was noticed in several of the daily papers.

Asa Hall extended his enterprise of one stage, from Exchange Coffee House, site of the Duncan building, corner Pine and Nassau streets, to Greenwich, corner of Hudson and Amos streets, to a line of stages, of the omnibus type, 12½ cents.

The tax levy in this year was approved at \$450,000.

The City Hotel and lots, now occupied by the Boreel Building, were sold at public auction for \$123,000.

March 28 first appeared in New York, in the character of *Little Pickle*, Miss Louisa Lane, now known and admired as Mrs. John Drew.

Arundel, north of Division Street, was changed to Chrystie. Reason, from Bedford to Fifth Street, toward Sixth Avenue, was changed to Barrow. Collect, from Pearl to Hester and from Rynder to Orange, was changed to Centre Street, April 7. In 1817 it had not been opened beyond Pearl; but was subsequently extended to Chambers Street.

The name and address of Delmonico and Brothers first appeared in this year, when they opened a coffee, cake, and confectionery room at 23 William Street in a single room, in which they and the female members of their families dispensed *bon-bons*, coffee, liquors, *pâtés*, and confections. In 1831 they opened a fully appointed restaurant, whence they removed after the fire of 1835 to 76

Broad Street until their erection of the building, in 1837, at intersection of Beaver, William, and South William streets, removed in 1890 and reconstructed. Their subsequent course and the status of their representatives are too well known for a recital here.

May 15 occupants of the State Prison in Greenwich Street were removed to the newly constructed building at Sing Sing, the construction of which had been commenced in 1825.

May 20 the "Bowery" Theatre burned, taking fire from a neighboring livery stable, whence the winds drove the flames to the theatre, beginning with the roof. This occurred about 6 o'clock P. M. The postponed benefit of Mrs. Gilfert was set for that evening. The house was rebuilt better than before within the space of ninety days, being opened late in August, on which occasion Forrest delivered the address, written by William Leggett, the editor and critic.

July 4 William Niblo removed from the Bank Coffee House, corner William and Pine streets, and opened a hotel, garden, and theatre at the northeast corner of Broadway and Prince Street, site of the Metropolitan Hotel, and termed it the *Sans Souci*. The theatre was opened by Charles Gilfert, the "Bowery" manager, for a brief season, while his house was rebuilding. Many famous performances have taken place at this spot; notably here the Ravels long delighted town and country alike. At this time "Niblo's Garden" was an actual garden, with walks, flowers, trees, summer-houses, etc., and was considered somewhat remote from town. The theatre or entertainment saloon was in the centre. This subsequently gave place to a complete, permanent theatre, and the garden vanished.

August 30 M. and Mme. Vestris appeared at the "Bowery"; they were excellent dancers. Forrest and Booth, and many other attractions, were offered after the

re-opening of this house, but the season was disastrous until its close in midsummer of 1829; soon after which the manager, Gilfert, died from worry and care.

Late in the season a full and effective French opera company opened at the Park, and continued at intervals until the close of 1829.

The city stages (omnibuses) had so increased at this time (twenty in number) that there were five routes in operation, viz.: Greenwich, Broadway, Manhattanville, Grand, and Dry Dock (*via* Water and Cherry streets, etc.).

September 18 a traveller from Cincinnati reached here in the unprecedented time of seven days; so remarkable was this considered that it was noticed and commented upon in the papers.

The canvass for the Presidency at this time was very warmly contested. The Republicans (Democrats), having nominated General Andrew Jackson, designated the headquarters of their election districts by planting hickory-trees as emblematic of his decided victory over the Seminole Indians in Florida at the Hickory Swamp, and gave him the title of "Old Hickory." In 1844, when James K. Polk was a candidate of the same party, he was known as "Young Hickory," and small hickory-trees were in like manner planted.

The male prisoners in the State Prison were transferred to the new prison at Sing Sing, and in the year following the females were transferred. It was proposed in 1827 by an association of citizens, after some preliminary motions a year earlier, to cause a canal sixty feet in width to be cut from the foot of East One Hundred and Eighth Street through the island, to terminate at the west side of Macomb's Dam in the Harlem River. It was to be known as the Harlem Canal. The stock of the company was filled by this time, and on September 17 of this year ground was broken. The excavation proceeded

about as far as Fourth Avenue, after which the enterprise was abandoned, having become a source of annoyance as well as of loss to all concerned. Until within a few years (1895) some remains of the entrance lock were still to be seen.

The New York Screw Dock Company, at 415 Water Street, was organized in this year, and the first dock (as it was erroneously termed, it being strictly an elevator) was located in South Street, since extended out, when South Street was opened at that point between Market and Pike slips. Zebedee Ring and associates constructed and operated it.

Miss Emma Wheatly, at the age of six, was engaged at the Park Theatre this season as a *danseuse*, and was in the habit of executing with her sister a *pas de deux* between the acts. Fanny Kemble in 1832 admired her and aided her with instruction, and at the age of thirteen she made her regular *début* at the Park as *Prince Arthur* in "King John." This appearance was successful, and she subsequently appeared as *Desdemona*, *Julia*, *Mrs. Haller*, etc., and gave promise of a very decided talent. She remained at the Park until the autumn of 1837, when she became leading lady of Wallack's company at the new National Theatre, while not yet sixteen. In 1837 she married James Mason, son of the president of the Chemical Bank, and retired from the stage in the spring of 1838. Her adieu at the National Theatre (corner of Leonard and Church streets) was in the character of *Desdemona*, supported by Edwin Forrest, Booth, James W. Wallack, William Wheatly, and Mrs. Sefton; and Mr. Dayton, in his happy reminiscences, declares the house to have been "electrified by the effects of this galaxy of talent." Compelled by pecuniary need, Mrs. Mason returned to the Park Theatre in 1847. She died in 1854, much lamented, for she had been beloved and admired on the stage and in society.

Blackwell's Island was purchased by the city in this year for thirty-two thousand dollars.

Joseph Bonfanti, before mentioned as the proprietor of a store for varieties of things both "of use and sport," was in the annual habit of detailing in verse the character and extent of the articles he offered, much to the amusement of all. As an example I furnish a specimen verse for this year, being a parody on the recitals of the stories of Major Longbow by Mr. Hackett, which then were popular :

" I came in an air balloon,
It rose from the *Champ de Mars* ;
And I called on the man in the moon
To purchase the seven stars.
He said the stars were dim,
Bonfanti's store was nigh :
I'd better go down to him.
What will you lay it's a lie ? "

In December a market (Tompkins) was ordered to be constructed in Third Avenue and the Bowery, and Liberty Street to be widened in the following May. If this street at its present width is the result of widening, what could it have been in its original width ? would be a natural question of the day.

There was a social feature of the day, the annual ball given by the bachelors, known as the Bachelors' Ball, that has lapsed for many years, and it was one that should have been maintained. It was a distinguished affair and in the van of all essays of that character, being far more select in the character of its patrons than would be practicable at this time. All the managers wore knee-breeches, silk stockings, and pumps.

In this year appeared the *Merchants' Telegraph*, published and edited by John I. Mumford. The daily issue of all the papers published in the city was given as fifteen thousand.

August 2 the Mount Pitt circus was burned.

Kipp & Brown, at 431-433 Hudson Street, commenced running a line of stages from Charles to Pine Street.

Peter M. Bayard occupied 11 and 13 State Street as a hotel and restaurant. In consequence of the location, giving an unrestricted view of the Bay, open to the south and west breezes in the summer, and the sun in winter, it became a favorite resort, and especially of a clique of idlers who assembled there in the forenoon, and repaired to their evening resorts at the close of the day. Here turtle soup was dispensed which was worthy of the animal of which it was made; not the *purée* of this time, which is served at some of our leading restaurants and clubs; not a thin *consommé* of that which might be calves' head or veal, but *bona fide* turtle, with callipash, callipee, and forced-meat balls.

William Leggett (heretofore mentioned), formerly a midshipman in the Navy, who had resigned in 1826, began editing and publishing a paper termed the *Critic*; but as his forcible arguments and caustic articles could not sustain it, it soon expired. After this he was associated with William C. Bryant in the *Evening Post*, at 10 Pine Street. An article of his, published some years later (I think in about 1832), in condemnation of the Governor's appointing a day of Thanksgiving, which he held to be the loss of a day's wages to the workingman, was written with a degree of vigor and emphasis for which he was without a superior.

The first known mention of a Protestant Episcopal cathedral was in this year. Philip Hone in his "Diary" records that in November Bishop Hobart called upon him and opened the project of building a cathedral on Washington Square. Mr. Hone approved this, as a "glorious project," and adventurously considered the site proposed to be "the best in the city" for the purpose. How he would have marvelled at the present site, chosen by con-

servative judgment as being the best, though five and a half miles above Washington Square !

About this year "The Finish," at the southwest corner of Broadway and Anthony (Worth) Street, was opened, as what would much later have been termed a "saloon," but at that time it was familiarly known as a "gin mill," and one of a high order in its fittings and equipments. It was well termed, for it was the finish of many of its *habitués*, and were it not that it is not my purpose or province to exhume painful reminiscences, I could recite many mournful cases, alike to those of some of the inmates of the poorhouse on Blackwell's Island, where youth, health, social position, and wealth were thrown away, under the baneful attractions of this and similar places, in pursuit of pleasure.

In the canvass for the Presidency in this year (John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson), party lines were very stringently drawn. The party in power, the whilom Federalists, recognized the popularity of General Jackson, and in view to weaken it, every act of his, public or private, that could be brought to his disadvantage, was published and disseminated; notably his duel with Dickinson,* his hanging of Arbuthnot and Ambrister, two subjects of Great Britain, who furnished the Indians with whom we were at war with arms and supplies, and even the sanctity of his domestic relations was invaded; but the crowning charge against him was his shooting six militiamen for offences, and in order to give this the better effect, handbills were printed representing

* His duel was so exceptional in condition and result that it is worthy of notice : pistols at eight paces, and toss for fire. Dickinson won it, his ball wounding Jackson in the breast, from which he never fully recovered, but he did not flinch, as he was unwilling that his adversary should know he was wounded; whereupon Dickinson exclaimed, "Great God, have I missed him?" Jackson then fired and wounded him so that he died soon after.

a coffin, skull, and cross-bones, with a recital to the effect that General Jackson in his campaign had unlawfully caused six militiamen to be shot, which charge was made more effective by setting it forth in the following verse:

All six militiamen were shot,
And, oh! it seems to me
A bloody act, a bloody deed,
Of merciless cruelty.

These were published and widely scattered by a well-known politician in Philadelphia, and known as his "Coffin Handbills." Jackson's hanging of Arbuthnot and Ambrister was also set forth as a heinous offence, although the British Government did not make any protest regarding the matter. A Democratic paper in this city on the occasion of Adams, who was then President, passing through here to his home in Massachusetts, semi-seriously published that, in paying his passage on board the Sound steamer, he offered some of these bills in part payment.

A well-known figure in society was William E. McLeod, an ex-officer in a British regiment of Highlanders, whose father fell at Waterloo. He was the second of Barton in his duel with Graham.

James K. Paulding, a popular author, published "The New Pilgrim's Progress," a burlesque on the guide-books and writings of English travellers, and a satire on fashionable life in this city. In 1826 appeared his "Merry Tales of Three Wise Men of Gotham who went to sea in a bowl," a satire upon the writings of Robert Dale Owen, an Englishman, who was notorious for the publication of his peculiar proposals for a change in our social relations, and in this year for his publication of "The Free Enquirer." In 1807 Paulding was associated with Washington Irving in the publication of their inimitable "Salma-

gundi," or the "Whim-whams and Opinions of Launcelot Langstaff, Esq., and others."

In evidence of the decadence of ship-building in this city in late years, there were at this time, of my personal knowledge, ten ship-yards where vessels of all descriptions were built; viz.: David Brown's, Jacob Bell's, Christian Bergh's, Fickett & Thomes's, Lawrence & Sneden's, Smith & Dimon's, Jabez Williams's, Jacob A. Westervelt's (since Mayor of this city), Webb & Allen's, and S. & F. Fickett's; added to which there were several ship-carpenters without yards, that repaired vessels; as Henry Steers, Cornelius Poillon, etc., etc.

The American Institute was chartered.

1829. January 26 Pump Street, running from Division to Collect Street, was changed to Walker Street; this was before Canal Street, in name, was continued to East Broadway. Reason, from Macdougall Street to where it crossed Asylum, was changed to Barrow Street. In April Beaver Lane was changed to Morris Street, and Herring, from Carmine to Bank Street, became Bleecker Street. In May Barrow was changed to Grove Street. Clinton Market, on Washington, Spring, Canal, and West streets, was opened in April. Arden, from Bleecker to Bedford, was changed to Morton; David, from Broadway to Herring, changed to Bleecker Street.

In February canvas-back ducks were sold for fifty cents a brace, and venison brought the price of beef.

Early in this year a steam locomotive, built in England by the celebrated George Stephenson, was exhibited in the iron-yard of E. Dunscomb in Water near Frankfort Street.

There was an *élite* private fancy ball given in January of this year by two residents of Bowling Green, an opening between their houses having been made for the occasion, and the affair was one of great interest in society. Two mask and fancy balls given at the Park



NIBLO'S BROADWAY STAGE, 1829

Theatre were so fully and fashionably attended that proprietors of other theatres and halls essayed similar enterprises; and as the patronage under less stringent requirements and observances, and in different locations, became less and less select, these affairs grew offensive to propriety, and the Press, in behalf of the citizens, asked of the Legislature an Act designed to suppress the growing evil. It was enacted that all like assemblies should be subject to a fine of one thousand dollars, one-half to be paid to the informer of the violation of law.

The Sabbatarians of the period, having obtained a great

number of petitions to Congress asking for the arrest of the running and delivery of the mails on Sundays, a public meeting was called by the merchants, and others, to protest against such action by the National Legislature.

In evidence of the value of real estate at this time, the two-story house and lot, No. 17 Broadway, adjoining the present Stevens House, 44 feet 9½ inches front, and 118 feet in depth, sold at public sale in April for nineteen thousand dollars.

Andrew J. Davis and Ithiel Town & Thompson, architects, had offices in the Merchants' Exchange, and they were the only parties known exclusively as architects in the city.

1829, James Thompson opened his first confectionery at 8 Arcade and also at 32 Liberty Street. In 1832 he removed to 176 Broadway, in 1835 to 172 and 235 Broadway, and in 1851 to 359 Broadway, near Franklin Street, where, in the character of his patrons and of his entertainment, he was a worthy follower of Guerin, before referred to.

There were two lines, the Despatch and Union, of steamboats and stages combined, running between this city and Philadelphia. In the summer season the stages ran only to Bordentown or Bristol, and thence steamboats were taken to Philadelphia. The opposition between them was very warm; so much so that the arrival of each line in this city was noticed in the papers of the next day; the time usually half or three-quarters past three P. M.

In April, at the Park Theatre, first appeared Charles R. Thorne, afterward well known to our public as actor and manager.

April 11 the Lafayette Theatre was entirely destroyed by fire; it was not rebuilt.

In May Ogden Hoffman, a brilliant and popular orator, was appointed District Attorney. On the 25th of the

month the *Morning Courier and New York Enquirer*, edited by James Watson Webb and M. M. Noah, appeared.

The first operating locomotive introduced into this country was one which had been procured in England by Horatio Allen, and it was put in operation at the West Point Foundry Shop in Beach Street, in this month. Its power was estimated at nine horses, pressure of steam sixty pounds per square inch, and its capacity five miles per hour with a train of from sixty to eighty tons.

James H. Hackett, who had become lessee of the Chat-ham Garden Theatre, renamed it with the ambitious title of American Opera House and opened it late in May. September 1 he abandoned the enterprise.

In June James G. Bennett, an associate editor of the late New York *Enquirer*, issued a proposal for a paper to be called the *New York State Enquirer*.

June 4 the magazine of the steam frigate *Fulton* (the *Flogobombos* of Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell), in service at the Navy Yard, Brooklyn, as receiving-ship, exploded and killed one lieutenant and twenty-three marines, wounding seventy-two of the crew, with six missing. I was at the time on board of the steamboat *Citizen*, then in process of construction at the head of Water Street, witnessed the explosion, and visited the wreck immediately afterward. The *Citizen* was the second steamboat Captain Vanderbilt owned (the *Bellona*, built in 1816, a gift from William Gibbons, being the first), and the first that he built. The first he commanded was the *Stoughtenger* (in derision she was called "The Mouse out of the Mountain"), seventy-five feet in length, propelled by what were termed paddles, but they were strictly *palmipedes*, in order to evade the *Fulton* claim for side-wheels. This attempt was a signal failure. The *Bellona* was fitted with like propulsion, but it being condemned as useless, she was fitted with side-wheels, and from this arose the litigation between William Gibbons and Gouverneur Ogden,

in which Daniel Webster was engaged, as to the exclusive right of Fulton and his associate Livingston to steam navigation on the waters of the Hudson, a claim which the United States Supreme Court declared to be invalid.

August 1 the fare of foot passengers over the Hoboken ferries was reduced from 12½ to 6¼ cents.

Henry Placide of the Park Theatre was without an equal as a general actor of this period; always correct and often brilliant; a universal favorite, whether as *Sir Peter Teazle*, *Baron Pompolino*, or the schoolboy with an apron eating gingerbread, on the stage, or as a genial gentleman off it.

September 5 James G. Bennett announced his editorial connection with the *Morning Courier and New York Enquirer*, and that he would support strict Republican (Democratic) usages and principles.

This autumn the Park Theatre occupied the field virtually alone. The Lafayette had been burned, and the Chatham was given over to negro burlettas and the like, before vulgar audiences. At Forrest's benefit in December John A. Stone's "*Metamora*" was produced, for the first time on any stage. Early in the next year was given, with success, a new farce by Charles P. Clinch, entitled "*The First of May in New York.*"

The firing of buildings at this time and for some weeks previous was of so frequent occurrence that citizens were called upon to organize a night patrol.

This was the year of the "burking" excitement, beginning with reports that several persons had disappeared unaccountably. The public mind was already full of the atrocious murders committed in Edinburgh by Burke and Hare and their accomplices, who decoyed poor people and stragglers into secluded places and there murdered them, merely to get bodies to sell to the anatomists; thus making, as Sir Walter Scott said, "an end of the *Cantab*

vacuus,* the last prerogative of beggary, which entitled him to laugh at the risk of robbery." With Burke's deeds fresh in memory, it was easy to connect horrid imaginings with the stories, either true or false, of unexplained disappearances in New York, and thus a great excitement and wide-spread terror were engendered. Women and children never ventured forth alone after nightfall, and citizens generally were armed during their evening walks, though only with heavy sticks. The delusion was specially prevalent among the negroes, who almost universally kept close within doors during the dark hours. It was a considerable time before public feeling on this subject abated and there was any cessation of the wild tales that had agitated the community, though having very little if any serious foundation.

Charles Henry Hall, who had been bookkeeper for Thomas H. Smith & Son, the great India merchants in South, near Roosevelt Street, occupied from 1823 the house and grounds on Broadway and Prince Street employed by William Niblo as a garden and theatre in 1829, where the Metropolitan Hotel and Theatre lately stood. Hall in this year (1829) removed to Harlem, occupying extensive grounds near Sixth Avenue and One hundred and Twenty-fifth Street, having purchased them of John Adriance June 27, 1825.

* "Cantabit vacuus coram latrone viator."—JUVENAL.

CHAPTER XIII

1830-1831.—WALTER BOWNE, MAYOR

1830. TOMPKINS MARKET on Third Avenue, Sixth and Seventh streets, was erected; it was rebuilt in 1852. Chapel Street, which had been widened from Leonard, was widened from Chambers to Barclay Street and named College Place. Marketfield, west of Broadway, was changed to Battery Place. Pine Street was widened at corner of William, and Ann widened to Nassau Street.

In this year there were fully nine lines of foreign sailing packets, viz.: Belfast, Carthage, Greenock, Havana, Havre, Hull, Liverpool, London, and Vera Cruz; and of domestic there were four, viz.: Charleston, Mobile, New Orleans, and Savannah.

About this date the wooden picket-fence that had inclosed St. John's Park, at Hudson, Laight, Varick, and Beach streets, was replaced with iron. This property was held in common by the abutting owners, and was availed of solely by them, each being in possession of a key wherewith to enter it. For many years the neighborhood was one of the very highly aristocratic portions of the city. In 1869 this Park was purchased by Captain Vanderbilt in behalf of the New York Central & Hudson River R. R., and on it were erected store-houses for a freight station and dépôt. The uptown movement had for some time affected the Park vicinity unfavorably, and this change by Vanderbilt completed the destruction of one of the most agreeable residence quarters known in New York.

In January the Chatham Garden Theatre was revived as Blanchard's Amphitheatre. Under this style very good equestrian performances, with rope-dancing and the like, were offered.

May 2, James Watson Webb of the *Courier and Enquirer*, feeling aggrieved at some action of Duff Green, editor of a paper in Washington, went there for the purpose of resenting the charge against him by punishing Green, who, upon the appearance of Webb in a threatening manner, drew from his breast a pistol and presented it at Webb, who immediately ceased all hostile demonstration, and on his return to New York published an article over his name, relating the meeting with Green on the steps of the Capitol, and that the pistol was of a given length with a mahogany stock. The article was held to be very injudicious and humiliating to his friends. Bennett, upon his publication of the *Herald* in 1838, took advantage of it; and for a long while after, when he referred to Webb, it was "mahogany stock," "barrel and all," etc.

A new line to Philadelphia was established in the spring: running time (by steamboats and coaches), twelve hours—*mirabile dictu!*

About this period India-rubber overshoes first appeared; the exact date I cannot give. They were wholly made of pure rubber, and were very rough and unsightly in fashion. Prior to this, provident elderly persons wore overshoes of leather, men and boys greased their boots or shoes in winter, or suffered with wet feet.

The popular letters of Major Jack Downing first appeared in the New York *Advertiser*. They assumed to be from the pen of an Eastern pedler, who having been intimate with General Jackson, the President, they jointly occupied a bed, and he addressed him in that strain. They were written by Charles Augustus Davis of this city.

In July a trotting course was opened on the ground in front of the "Kensington House" of William Niblo, on the east side of the Old Boston Road at Seventieth Street, which he had opened several years before.

July 14, a committee of citizens who had previously been associated for the purpose of revising the existing municipal laws, and submitting a report thereon, with such recommendations as they deemed proper, was organized; the late Mayor William Paulding being appointed chairman.

September 1, Charles Kean made his first appearance at the Park Theatre in "Richard III.," before a great audience. Booth was playing tragedy at the "Bowery" Theatre at this time, and the rival performances were very interesting to the public. Kean may be said to have laid here the foundation of his great reputation. He returned to England in 1833, when his countrymen acceded to the American opinion of him. He revisited this country in 1839, and again in 1845 with his wife (Ellen Tree), when they made a highly successful tour through the States, returning to England in the spring of 1847.

September 10, John Henry Hobart, Bishop of New York, died at Auburn, N. Y., and on the 16th occurred his funeral, a very solemn and impressive sight. The procession is said to have contained five thousand persons, and the streets were thronged through which it passed. The funeral service was performed in Trinity Church. Bishop Hobart was a great man and born ruler, and a very eminent citizen of New York. He at one time became engaged in a polemical discussion with Dr. Mason, who was termed the Goliath of Calvinism, and of Hobart's defence the lines of Sir Walter Scott in his "Lady of the Lake" were aptly quoted:

"While less expert, though stronger far,
The Gael maintain'd unequal war."

Bishop Hobart's monument was placed on the rear wall of Trinity Church (not the present structure, but the building demolished in 1839), in a shallow recess built to receive it. The Bishop died in the decline of the day, and, it was said, desired to be raised in his bed to look for the last time upon the setting sun. The artist found the motive of his work in this incident, and placed his subject raised and supported by Faith, and gazing upon the effulgence shining from the Sun of Righteousness as represented by a halo-crowned cross. This is the monument still to be seen in the new Trinity Church. It is built into the south wall of the chancel, facing the second room of the sacristy on that side of the church.

October the Rev. B. T. Onderdonk, an assistant minister of Trinity Parish, was elected Bishop to succeed Dr. Hobart. All the previous Bishops of New York, Provoost, Moore, and Hobart, had been Rectors of Trinity.

October 22, Master Burke, of Ireland, termed "the Young Roscius," made his first appearance at the Park Theatre as *Young Norval*, and *Dr. O'Toole* in "The Irish Tutor." Though under twelve years of age he was recognized as a star in *Hamlet*, a character which he had assumed at five years. Besides the parts he played on his first night at the Park, he led the orchestra in an overture and sang a comic song. Burke was an attraction here for several seasons; thereafter he returned to Europe, abandoned the drama, and became a violinist, in which capacity he was heard here in high-class concerts in the fifties. I am told he was a member of Jullien's orchestra.

He was a precocious youth and very clever. I travelled in company with him and his father, hence to Boston *via* steamboat, and was much amused with him.

In this year Thos. S. Hamblin secured the lease of the "Bowery" Theatre, where he continued for a long time as sole manager.



BUCK'S HORN TAVERN, BROADWAY, BETWEEN TWENTY-FIRST AND TWENTY-SECOND STREETS

The Book of Mormon of Joseph Smith, alleged by him to have been found, was first published in this year. It is claimed, however, that the book was written by a clergyman at Mormon Hill in 1819; being essentially a plagiarism of a romance, which was clandestinely taken or copied by a printer, and adopted as the Bible of the "Latter Day Saints," as Smith and his proselytes termed themselves.

November 26 witnessed a great civil and military display. There had been a meeting of citizens at Tammany Hall on November 12, for the purpose of organizing a celebration in honor of the dethronement of Charles X. of France. Ex-President Monroe presided, and as Evacuation Day, the 25th inst., was soon to occur, it was selected as the day for the celebration. Samuel Swartwout was appointed grand marshal and Samuel L. Gouverneur, orator. Philip Hone was chairman of the committee of arrangements. The weather on the appointed date being adverse to such a display, it was postponed to the following day, which being propitious, the affair was most successful, in consequence of the very general presence of manufacturers and tradesmen with emblems of their employ, cadets from West Point, the military and citizens, among whom were conspicuous a party of persons who had been actors in some of the scenes of the Revolution: Alexander Whaley, of the "Boston Tea Party"; Enoch Crosby, the *Harvey Birch* of Cooper's "Spy"; David Williams, one of the captors of Major André; John Van Arsdale, who hauled down the British flag on the Battery on the evacuation of the city, and Anthony Glenn, a Naval Officer of the Revolution, bearing the flag he hoisted in its place. During the progress of the march a section of a steam boiler was rivetted, and an arm-chair was manufactured and presented to the presiding officer. The route was at least two and a half miles long, and when the head of the pro-

cession reached Washington Parade Ground, where the exercises took place, the rear was not yet in motion.

There were at this period, in addition to Cato's and Burnham's, before referred to, and had been for many



THE WALTON HOUSE IN LATER YEARS

years preceding, several public or roadside houses, which were daily frequented by the gentlemen who kept horses and wagons. These were that of John Snediker on the Jamaica Road, celebrated for his asparagus dinners; "Nick" Vandyne's, on the hill at Flatbush, where the widow dispensed liquors and gossip; it was at Cato's

that the horsemen of the day convened, notably Captain Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Pearsalls, Richard T. Carman, Edward Minturn, John and Gerard Coster, and a host of others; Widow Bradshaw's, corner of One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street and Third Avenue, whose chicken fricassees were universally acknowledged to be a marvel and an "institution"; they were as well known as Mrs. Dominy's "chunk apple" and clam pot-pies at Fire Island. In addition to the open piazza in front and the fricassees, the place was held to be the termination of a drive, and as a result, on a favorable day for driving, the house was well attended. I have cited this year as I am ignorant of the precise year of her advent, so I give the one in which I first visited her and Burnham's at Broadway and Seventy-eighth and Seventy-ninth streets. As several of our young men, residing in the lower part of the city, stabled in Brooklyn, it was very convenient for them to drive to Jamaica and Flatbush. Coney Island was then little else than a place where parties sometimes went to bathe and then eat roast clams at Cropsey & Woglum's or Wyckoff's on the beach.

In an earlier chapter I have adverted to the primitive methods employed in striking a light. About this period, however, there was introduced a brimstone match, which was so universally used that children sold them in the streets, with as much persistency of application as they now practise in vending newspapers. These matches were made of narrow pine-wood shavings, planed off in a manner so as to form a spiral, cut in lengths of about five inches, and their ends dipped in melted sulphur.

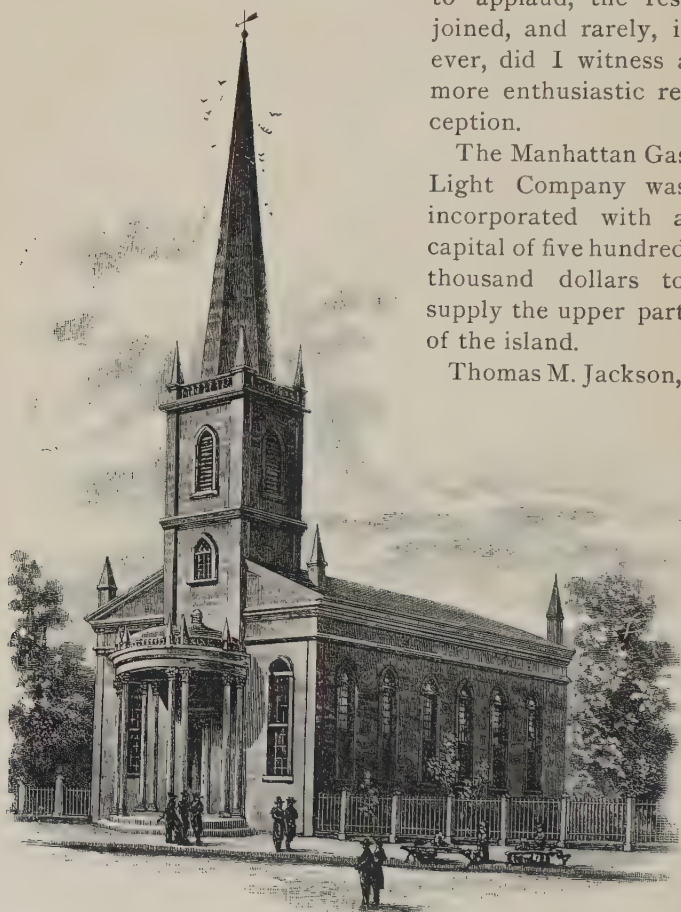
Mrs. Vernon, *née* Fisher, appeared for the first time at the Park Theatre, in December. In her line of acting she was unsurpassed, correct in her diction and impersonation. A great number of New Yorkers will remember her as one of the chief ornaments of Wallack's admirable stock company in days comparatively modern.

In or about the year 1884 she appeared at the Star Theatre on some special occasion, and, as it occurred, there were several of the audience who had witnessed and enjoyed her performances in long-previous years, and upon her entrance on the stage, one of the number rising

to applaud, the rest joined, and rarely, if ever, did I witness a more enthusiastic reception.

The Manhattan Gas Light Company was incorporated with a capital of five hundred thousand dollars to supply the upper part of the island.

Thomas M. Jackson,



TRINITY CHURCH OF 1788. TAKEN DOWN IN 1839

colored, opened in this year an oyster-cellar and restaurant at 47 Howard Street, west of Broadway ; it was a favorite and very popular resort, and deservedly so, as he kept good articles and was very civil and attentive to his customers. He also was popular as a caterer for public and private festivities.

The first locomotive in this country, before referred to, was forwarded from this city and operated on a road in South Carolina.

The *Christian Intelligencer* was established in this year as the newspaper of the Dutch Reformed Church.

In this year, and for several years after, the formation and operation of boat clubs became very popular with our young men ; our boat-builders were taxed to fill the demands for long, narrow, and highly finished boats, usually for eight oars ; the "Barge," the property of a club of young men of our extreme *ton*, was double-banked and eight-oared. Annually there was a regatta held under the direction of representatives of the different clubs, the course around stake-boats, terminating off the Battery.

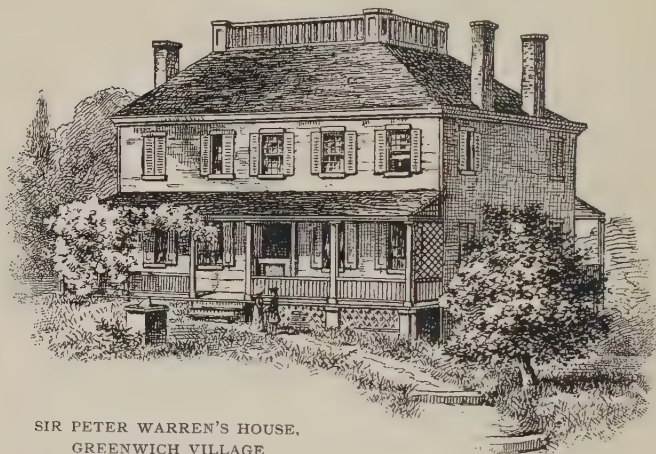
The absence of ferry-boats, barges, tows, and tow-boats, compared with those of a later day, rendered rowing in the evening safely practicable, and New Brighton, Thatched House at Paulus Hook, Hoboken, Elysian Fields, Bull's Ferry, and Fort Lee were visited.

Such clubs were not confined to this city, as the *mania* extended to Brooklyn and all our river towns, but in a few years it diminished, and the clubs became reduced in numbers, and eventually were broken up.

The will of Captain Randall (Robert R.), having been disputed and in litigation for many years, was in the preceding year decided by the United States Supreme Court in its favor, and the trustees, under authority of an Act of our Legislature, purchased property on Staten Island which it now occupies.

January 10, Lombardy was changed to Monroe Street; and Harman, named after Harmanus Rutgers, was widened on the east side, and named East Broadway.

Late in January "Cinderella" was produced at the



SIR PETER WARREN'S HOUSE,
GREENWICH VILLAGE

Park Theatre, for the first time. It had remarkable success, being given forty-seven times during the season.

In March, at the "Bowery" Theatre, George Jones, later known as the Count Joannes, first appeared on the stage, as the *Prince of Wales* in King Henry IV. Jones had some dramatic capacity, though less than he supposed. He played *Hamlet*, late in 1836, at the National Theatre, and appeared often until his aberration of mind became too marked.

March 11, the Chatham Garden and Theatre, passing from the control of Blanchard, was opened as a theatre. Here Danforth Marble made his first appearance on any

stage, April 11. He became famous here and in England for Yankee and other *outré* parts long before his death in 1849.

In this year the first street railway in the world, the New York and Harlem, was incorporated with a capital of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Upon the notice of the commissioners to receive bids for shares of the stock, there was a furor among our citizens to obtain them, to be likened only to that of the "South Sea Bubble" or Law's "Mississippi Scheme" of the last century. So great and general was the rush that an amount far in excess of the capital stock was subscribed.

The Messrs. Robert L. and John C. Stevens opened their grounds above Castle Point, erected a house of entertainment there, and named the place the Elysian Fields. To celebrate the affair a large party of eminent persons and well-known citizens was conveyed to the spot on the ferry-boat *Newark*, and a banquet was given in the open air on the lawn.

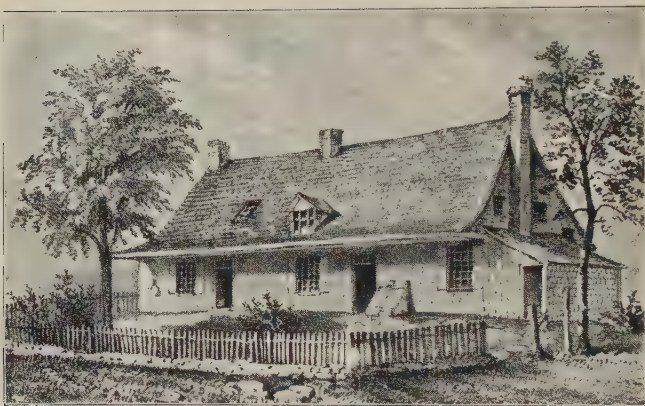
The University of New York was incorporated in this year, the following officers being elected: James M. Matthews, D. D., Chancellor; Albert Gallatin, President of the Council; Morgan Lewis, Vice-President; John Delafield, Secretary; Samuel Ward, Treasurer.

March 18 the Bachelors' Fancy Ball, which had been the subject of great interest in the fashionable circle, took place at the City Hotel. In brilliancy and general success it met all expectation.

April 20, William C. Bryant, editor of the *Evening Post*, and William L. Stone, of the *Commercial Advertiser*, met in Broadway near Park Place, and a personal *rencontre* occurred, Bryant striking Stone with a cowhide, whereupon they closed and were parted by the bystanders. Stone prevailed, to the extent of carrying off the whip with which he had been attacked.

May 15, the Providence steamboats *Washington* and *Chancellor Livingston* collided in the morning in the East River off Corlear's Hook (Jackson Street), and the former was sunk ; her boilers of copper broke loose from the hull and were lost.

June 7, the boiler of the steamer *General Jackson*, while she was lying at Grassy Point on the North River, burst, and several persons were killed. She was owned by Captain Cornelius Vanderbilt, later designated Commodore,



REMSEN HOUSE, CHERRY, NEAR CLINTON STREET

and commanded by his brother Jacob. In consequence of the charge of alleged indifference to the sufferers, the latter was so severely censured by the press that "Commodore" Vanderbilt, even so late as 1853, in a conversation with me, referred to what he averred was a great injustice to his brother.

In July there were three extensive conflagrations of buildings, viz. : on the 2d, the block bounded by Fourth, Mercer, Amity, and Greene streets ; on the 4th, forty houses and stores in Varick, Charleton, and Vandam streets ; and on the 18th, in Eldridge Street, nineteen

houses. In the last-named fire three persons were burned.

On the Fourth of July Ex-President James Monroe died in the house of his son-in-law, Samuel L. Gouverneur, in this city. Of four ex-Presidents who then had died, Mr. Monroe was the third to depart on the national anniversary, a coincidence heightened in effect by the simultaneous deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson on July 4, 1826.

The Mohawk and Hudson Railroad began operations in this year, exciting astonishment and fear by attaining a speed of twenty miles an hour.

The river route hence to Peekskill, having for many years been run by Captain Vanderbilt, and the price of passage being such as the citizens of Putnam and Westchester counties, headed by Daniel Drew and James Smith, held to be exorbitant, a number of them associated in a company and built a steamer which forced Vanderbilt to reduce his fare to twelve and one-half cents. In 1832, however, Drew and Smith sold out to Vanderbilt without the knowledge or consent of their associates. Subsequently Vanderbilt, having a difficulty with one of the directors of the Hudson River Association hence to Albany, placed two boats on the route, and at the end of two years forced them to a purchase of his boats, he covenanting a cessation of all interest in any boat on the route for a period of ten years.

This leaving the route open to opposition, Drew purchased two boats and ran them for one year, when the association joined with him, and gave his boats their proportion of the earnings of the line. He then put a boat on the route under the alleged ownership and interest of another person, the captain's brother. The running of this boat was so injurious to the association that it proposed to buy her off, and named the price it was willing to give, and directed Drew, he being one of its directors,

to see the brother and ascertain if he would accept the sum. Whereupon Drew left, and having walked around the block, as it was afterward asserted, he returned and stated he had seen the brother and he would not accept, unless the price was raised to eight thousand dollars. After some discussion it was decided to give it, where-

upon Drew again walked around the block, and, returning, reported he had seen the brother and that he had accepted.

In this year the City Bank was entered with false keys by Edward Smith and Robert James Murray, and two hundred and forty thousand dollars were stolen. Smith was arrested soon after and the greater part of the money recovered.



APTHORPE MANSION, BLOOMING-
DALE ROAD

In this year also there arrived from Smyrna some Arabian horses—three in number, I think—under the care of Charles Rhind, our consul, being a present from the *Sublime Porte* to President Jackson; but as he was constitutionally precluded from the acceptance of presents from any potentate, they were sold, and brought five hundred dollars each.

Henry Eckford, who had designed the United States ship of the line *Ohio*, and had built a vessel of war for the

Turkish government, was induced by that government to enter its service. Soon after the arrival of Mr. Eckford in Turkey the Sultan remarked: "The United States must be a great country when it can spare such men as you." He took with him Foster Rhodes, afterward well known, not only as an eminent designer of vessels, but one whose attainments in naval architecture were of a very high order. Yet, upon his return being appointed a naval constructor in our navy, George Bancroft, the Secretary of the Navy, in one of his erratic impulses detached him from a yard at the North, where vessels were being built, and detailed him to the navy yard at Pensacola, Fla., where there was neither the material nor plant for the construction of even a launch.

The summer of 1831 witnessed the success at the Chatham Garden Theatre of George Handel Hill ("Yankee Hill"), who, in his Yankee delineations, made for himself a wide reputation. He was at the Park Theatre in 1832, and travelled extensively in this country afterward; then in 1838 and 1833 he was highly successful in London, and even in Paris. He died in 1849.

In September, first appeared Josephine Clifton, a woman of extremely handsome person, who became a great favorite here and in London (in 1835). In 1837 she was a member of the Park Company. She died ten years later. A woman of large and increasing proportions, she became at last too indolent to study; with greater diligence and perhaps more mind, she could have accomplished anything.

Late in September, Forrest was first seen in "The Gladiators," the well-known play written for him by Dr. Bird of Philadelphia.

In the death on September 7 of Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D., LL. D., New York lost one of her foremost citizens. A professor in Columbia College and in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, he was an excep-

tionally zealous and laborious *savant*; the scope and versatility of his studies and attainments were so well known that he was the standard of reference in all physical investigations and questions. Besides this, he had eminent public spirit and mingled much in affairs, becoming member of the Legislature of the State, member of Congress, and Senator. The ready manner in which he responded to all calls upon his consideration, combined with an unusual ingenuousness of action, caused him to be the butt of many inconsiderate and unworthy questions. He was once asked why black sheep ate less than white ones, and after some hesitation quietly replied: "I recognize no other reason than there are less of them."

Pine Street was again widened, between Nassau and Pearl streets.

A Mr. Anderson, an English actor, on his arrival here was charged by a fellow-passenger, an American, with having made some very unjust and ill-natured remarks during the passage regarding Americans. Upon the announcement of his engagement at the Park Theatre the charges were publicly reported, and as a result, the house on the evening of his appearance, October 13, was filled with some of our indignant citizens who had individually assembled, without any previous association, and upon the entrance of Anderson on the stage he was greeted with hisses, missiles, etc., so persistently maintained that the performance was arrested. Nevertheless, Anderson was announced for the evening of October 15, in the same part (*Henry Bertram*, in the opera "Guy Mannering.") On this occasion the theatre was filled to overflowing with men only, who were determined to prevent Anderson's performance. When it was attempted to read his apology, a riot broke out which was not the least diminished by announcement that the actor's engagement had been cancelled and that the play would be

changed. As usual in such cases, the riot spread far beyond the designs of its originators and became the causeless, silly, or malicious outbreak of evil-disposed persons. It continued during the next day (Sunday), and in the evening of that day an attack was made on the theatre, the doors and windows being battered in. "Old Hays" and his men after a time restored comparative order, and on Monday the mob was appeased by sight of the front of the theatre covered with American flags, patriotic transparencies, etc., and no further violence occurred.

October 27, Chancellor Walworth laid the corner-stone of the Sailors' Snug Harbor on Staten Island, under the bequest of Captain Robert Richard Randall.

November, I shot a ruffed grouse (*vulgo* partridge) at Breakneck Hill on the estate of Madame Jumel, One Hundred and Forty-fourth Street and Ninth Avenue, and it was believed by sportsmen to be the last one to suffer a like fate on the Island.

At about Eightieth Street, between the Boulevard and Ninth Avenue, a Mr. Foley rented an open place and furnished pigeons for trap-shooting; and at about Eighty-



HAMILTON HOUSE

eighth Street and the river, a Mr. Batterson, proprietor of a hotel formerly a country seat, opened a pigeon ground for trap-shooting. Subsequently, Burnham opened a ground at Seventy-ninth Street and Eleventh Avenue for a like purpose.

November, the Richmond Hill Theatre was opened with the "Road to Ruin," a favorite opening play of that epoch, and not always inappropriate. The address for the occasion was written by Halleck. In the next year, late in May, the house was reopened with John Barnes of the Park as lessee; the address for the re-opening being from the pen of Charles P. Clinch. The little theatre enjoyed liberal favor from the public during the summer, until the cholera epidemic of 1832 ended this with all other forms of diversion.

December 25, the Havre packet arrived, being the first of ten Liverpool and Havre packets due; her latest date was the 23d of October, or fifty-nine days old.

December 26, the East River was closed (jammed) by ice so that several hundred persons crossed on foot between New York and Brooklyn.

The estate of Bishop Moore, which was part of that of Captain Thomas Clarke, and known as Chelsea, was inherited by his son Clement C., before mentioned herein, who occupied the house and grounds bounded by Nineteenth and Twenty-fourth streets, Ninth Avenue and the river (see page 191). In this year he commenced opening streets through the property. To the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church he had given the entire plot on Ninth Avenue between Twentieth and Twenty-first streets and the river.

Wells & Patterson opened at No. 277 Broadway, next to the corner of Chambers Street, a store for the furnishing and sale of men's hosiery, gloves, shirts, etc., etc., a

man-millinery, as it was then termed—and this was for several years the only store of the kind, as well as the first that was opened in this city.

The Leake and Watts Orphan Asylum was established in this year.

The population of the city in this year was ascertained to be 202,589.



M'GOWAN'S PASS, 1820

CHAPTER XIV

WALTER BOWNE, 1832 AND 1833, AND GIDEON LEE, 1833,
MAYORS

1832. In this year the following streets and places were widened, viz.: Ann, between Nassau and William; Cedar, between William and Pearl; Exchange Place at William; Spruce, between Nassau and Gold; William, on east side, from Wall to Pine; Hanover at Exchange Place; and Cross, Anthony, and Little Water streets. Sixth Street was changed to Waverly Place. Jefferson Market, at intersection of Sixth Avenue and Greenwich Lane, was opened. There was annexed to it a fire-alarm bell tower and a steam-pump, which drew and forced water through a main to the elevated cistern or reservoir, as it was termed, in East Thirteenth Street near Broadway.

Union Square was enlarged, and as the required area invaded the property of the owners abutting in Broadway and Seventeenth Street and the Bowery (now Fourth Avenue), many of them protested against the measure with the usual vehemence and short-sightedness of people regarding their view of their own interests in similar cases.

I was present on an occasion when an old and well-known sailor captain protested against the enlargement, as he was an old man and had settled down for life and did not wish to be disturbed. He said that it would be hard to lose his property—that is, to have the city take about five per cent. of it and make the balance in a few years worth ten times the cost of the whole, which it did.

The Hall of Records, in the Park, originally built for a jail (see page 26), which in 1830 had been ordered to

be converted for the accommodation of several of the city departments, was so far finished in this year that it was used as a cholera hospital, and, subsequently, by the Register, Comptroller, Street Commissioner, and Surrogate.

Some prices for real estate, obtained at sales by public auction during this winter, are here noted: The corner of Wall and Broad streets, 30 feet on Wall Street by 16 feet 8 inches on Broad, \$17,750; south-west corner of Broadway and Park Place, about 25 by 122, \$37,000.

February 23 ground was broken for construction of the New York and Harlem Railroad, and in the course of the year this company ran its first car from Prince to Fourteenth Street. These cars were like stage-coaches, hung on leather, with several compartments and side doors, the driver sitting above like a coachman, and putting on the brake with his feet. My readers should remember that at this time railways on important lines, as from Schenectady to Saratoga and the short cut across the Delaware-Maryland peninsula, on the route to Washington, were operated by horse-power.

Mordecai M. Noah, who had edited and published *The Advocate* from 1813, then at 73 Pine Street, commenced the publication in 1825 of the *National Advocate*, at 45 Wall Street, but, being enjoined by Henry Eckford and others, he changed the title to *Noah's National Advocate*; being again enjoined, he changed it to the *New York Enquirer*, at 10 William Street, and, in 1829, James Watson Webb purchased it, merged it with the *Morning Courier* published in 1827, and established the *New York Courier and Enquirer* at 16 Merchants' Exchange, with M. M. Noah, James Lawson, James Gordon Bennett, Prosper M. Wetmore, and James G. Brooks as editors. Later Bennett was transferred to Washington as reporter of Congressional proceedings.

May 4 the outer walls of the stores of Phelps & Peck



BROADWAY AND MURRAY STREET, 1820

in Gold Street, corner of Fulton, at about 6 P. M., fell out, and eight persons, including the bookkeeper, were killed and five injured.

May 21 Washington Irving arrived in New York, after an absence of seventeen years in foreign parts, and on May 30 a public dinner was given to him at the City Hotel, which was attended by a very large and distinguished company.

June 8 a public meeting of merchants was held to endorse an appeal to Congress to modify the tariff laws; but, in consequence of the presence and violent action of the manufacturers and others opposed to any modification, the assemblage was dispersed.

This was "cholera year." During the spring the

public were alarmed by reported prevalence of the disease in Europe. June 15, from Albany *via* the day-boat, we learned of the existence of the dreaded cholera in Quebec, brought across the Atlantic by immigrants, and appearing in a virulent form. The Common Council appointed two physicians, Drs. Rhineland and DeKay, to proceed forthwith to Quebec and report their views as to the means to be adopted to alleviate the scourge so soon as it appeared here. They proceeded and soon returned, and among their remedial preventive recommendations, one cited brandy and water and the other port-wine. It was for a long while a standard and oft-recurring joke with those who availed themselves, in the manner of such refreshment, of every opportunity that was presented to repel the dreaded cholera, announcing their preference for "Dr. Rhineland" (brandy) or "Dr. DeKay" (port-wine).

Mayor Bowne issued a proclamation forbidding the arrival here of all conveyances with persons afflicted with cholera. In the churches prayers were offered; but on June 26 the cholera appeared in New York. It was in virulent form. The Board of Health was required by duty to visit the Staten Island quarantine, and within a fortnight from the time of their visit all of them save one (Alderman Hall) were dead of the epidemic. A coroner's inquest was held in the case of a man found dead in the street from cholera. This was late in the week, and by the next Monday nine of the twenty persons concerned in the inquest were dead. A special medical council was appointed, and five large public hospitals were organized, besides establishing a special station in each ward.

Nevertheless, the city manifested a degree of calmness and self-control, in actual presence of the disorder, that was somewhat remarkable. Business proceeded without noteworthy interruptions, and the streets wore their

usual animated aspect. The situation was serious and grave—even awful—but there was no wild terror. Yet the disease raged until October 31, and caused 3515 deaths.

In the middle of July the famous Ravels appeared first in America at the Park Theatre, and instantly gained a popularity almost unrivalled in our amusements, which lasted for more than thirty years. After being at the Park and the "Bowery," they were seen at Niblo's for many successive seasons. Gabriel Ravel's farewell benefit was at Palmo's Opera House, late in 1847, and soon after the principal members of the *troupe* went abroad, but, at the opening of Niblo's new theatre, in 1849, several of them appeared, and in 1851 Gabriel himself returned with undiminished powers. In 1857-58 they were at Niblo's for three hundred nights. The first engagement of them at the Park, in this year of 1832, lasted but a fortnight, being negated by the cholera.

September 3 arrived Charles Kemble and his daughter, Frances Anne, so long and well known in this country as Fanny Kemble Butler. On September 17 and 18 they made their first appearances at the Park Theatre, Kemble on the first evening in *Hamlet*, his daughter on the 18th as *Bianca* in Milman's "Fazio." The receipts for the first ten nights of the Kembles' performances averaged twelve hundred dollars, and the total for the engagement of sixty nights was fifty-six thousand dollars. They attracted great attention, not only at the theatre, but in society also, for they were received into some of the best houses. Miss Kemble, in particular, was veritably triumphant. The publication of her journal, however, in 1835, caused a considerable revulsion of feeling among some of those who had shown her the greatest courtesy, for she had set down therein, with great frankness, her opinions of the dress, manners, and habits of her hosts—the opinions of a young girl in a new country, not

intrinsically valuable and certainly ill-advised as to publication.

The passage of a steamboat hence to Providence having been made in fourteen hours and twenty-nine minutes, it was heralded as an exceptional performance.

October 31. A notable event was the consecration of four bishops (Hopkins, Smith, McIlvaine, and Doane) in St. Paul's Chapel. The occasion excited great interest; it is now, 1895, commemorated on one of the bronze doors (the South) of Trinity Church.

Early in November T. D. Rice made his Ethiopian début in his character of *Jim Crow*, which became famous. Negro delineations had been given before (as at the Chatham Garden), but Rice may be regarded as in some degree the founder.

In December the Camden and Amboy Railroad was opened complete (steamboat to South Amboy and thence by rail), and the time was exultingly announced as five and a half hours from New York to Philadelphia.

The writer suggested to his former employer, James P. Allaire, the steam-engine manufacturer, that, as work was light, it would be well to keep all his good men and build a tugboat, which he might employ profitably if he could not sell her. To which he replied: "Why, Charles, there are three now!" This was considered conclusive; three boats, how could they be supported? At the present time (1895) there are 592 documented at this port, besides an unknown number from outside our limits.

Mr. Whitlock established a third line of packets hence to Havre. The first street paved in Harlem was One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Street in this year, paved and flagged, from Third to Eighth Avenue. There were no other paved streets in New York north of Clinton Place and Greenwich Avenue at this time.

Alexander Welsh, or "Sandie," as he was universally

called, opened a restaurant under the Museum, at the corner of Broadway and Ann Street, and named it the Terrapin Lunch. He was very popular, and his Lunch became one of the favorite resorts of the period. His motto was, *Dum vivimus vivamus*. He was a worthy competitor of Windust.

There were exhibited in the Rotunda, Chambers Street, pictures of Adam and Eve, and as they were represented in a semi-nude condition, and the public had not been educated up to the point of considering such representation as within the requirements of propriety, much censure was lavished upon the exhibition, and as a result it was largely attended, and finally accepted by some, and submitted to by others as permissible.

Charles Cox, a tailor from London at 114 William Street, subsequently Nassau, then at 5 Wall and finally Astor House, as Cox & Knock, had published an advertisement of an exceptionally absurd character, setting forth his lachrymose condition after his arrival here, and his now jubilant position. The precise language I have forgotten, but it was of such an unusual form that an English writer who was travelling here reproduced it on his return, in his travels in America, and vauntingly cited it as an illustration of the peculiar advertisements of Yankee tradesmen.

William Harrington, a butcher of Central Market, without any training, fought and signally defeated an English pugilist near Philadelphia. The interest shown in this fight among the butchers and Bowery Boys, of which number "Bill" Harrington had been an acknowledged representative and leader, was very great, and when the result of it became known here, flags were hoisted on the markets and slaughter-houses.

The Bowery Boy of that period was so distinctive a class in dress and conversation, that a description of him is well worthy of notice. He was not an idler and corner

lounger, but mostly an apprentice, generally to a butcher, and he "ran with a machine." He was but little seen in the day, being engaged at his employment; but in the evenings, other than Saturdays (when the markets remained open all day and evening), and on Sundays and holidays, he appeared in *propria persona*, a very different character; his dress, a high beaver hat, with the nap divided and brushed in opposite directions, the hair on the back of his head clipped close, while in front the temple locks were curled and greased (hence, the well-known term of "soap locks" to the wearer of them), a smooth face, a gaudy silk neck-cloth, black frock-coat, full pantaloons, turned up at the bottom over heavy boots designed for service in slaughter-houses and at fires; and when thus equipped, with his girl hanging on his arm, it would have been very injudicious to offer him any obstruction or to utter an offensive remark.

When he advised one of his *confrères* to attack and beat a person, or defend himself, he would exclaim "Lam him" (Sam, Jim, or Jake, as the name might be). The orthography I am not responsible for, as, in the absence of any vocabulary, I give the word phonographically; and strange as the expression may seem, there is authority for it, as Walter Scott, in his "Peveril of the Peak," uses it thus: "Lambe them, lads; lambe them!"*

Colloquially the Bowery Boy was referred to as *Moze*, and his "best girl" as *Lize*.

1833. January 1 appeared the first number of the *Knickerbocker Magazine*, under the editorial control of Charles F. Hoffman, a periodical which continued to hold the field, mainly under the late Lewis Gaylord Clark, until a date beyond the scope of these reminiscences. The New York *Evangelist* was founded in this year.

In this year the New York and Harlem Railroad extended its route to Murray Hill.

* A cant phrase of the time derived from the fate of Dr. Lambe, an astrologer and quack, who was knocked on the head in Charles I.'s time.

Provost Street, which ran from Chapel Street to the river, was changed to Franklin Street. Asylum Street, which had been opened in 1832, to Cornelia, from Christopher, was opened from Sixth to Eighth Avenue to



"NORTH" DUTCH CHURCH, CORNER OF FULTON AND WILLIAM STREETS

Fourth Street; and in November, North Street, which was east of the Bowery, was changed to Houston Street; Pine, from Broadway to William, was widened; Wooster

was extended to Fourteenth Street, and Barrow from Asylum Street to Sixth Avenue.

Jacob S. Platt purchased sufficient property between Gold and Pearl streets to open a street and erect stores fronting thereon. Hence arose the name Platt Street.

It was about this year that the first block, or Belgian, pavement was laid in a street of this city or country. The location, selected in view of the heavy travel over it, was in the Bowery between Bayard and Walker (Pump) streets. The streets previous to this, and for many years after, were paved with what are professionally known as cobblestones; and it was not until about this year, with the exception of the instance cited, that block stones were introduced, and then but sparingly; Broadway being first paved with Russ block, which ultimately proved a failure and was removed for Belgian.

The Greenwich Savings Bank was opened at 12 Carmine Street.

In April a subscription was completed for building the Marine Pavilion at Rockaway, as an elegant place of summer resort. Some seventy gentlemen subscribed five hundred dollars each; the list including such names as Prime, Ray, King, Hone, Cruger, Howland, Suffern, Coster, Hoyt, Schermerhorn, Crosby, Whitney, Newbold, Gihon, Parish, Thorne, Grinnell, Suydam, Kissam, Heckscher, Cutting, Livingston, Stuyvesant, etc., but notwithstanding these names, and the expectations of success, this resort, though established according to the plan and being a delightful place, never prospered. New Yorkers of fashion, including most of the subscribers, preferred to "go farther and fare worse."

The City Hotel was much damaged by fire.

April 30 the stables of Kipp & Brown, proprietors of a line of stages to Wall Street, in Hudson Street, corner of Hammond, were burned, and a great number of horses and of new stages were destroyed.

June 3 died Oliver Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury under Washington, afterward a merchant of New York, and President, first of the Merchants' Bank, then of the Bank of America. After declining business he removed to Connecticut, of which State he was some time Governor, and then returned to New York.

June 29 died Colonel Nicholas Fish, much regretted, an officer of distinction in the Revolutionary War, and a highly esteemed citizen.

In the summer President Jackson visited the city at the invitation of the Common Council. He was received by it at Amboy, and escorted to the city in the steamboat *North America*, to Castle Garden. The number of people on the bridge was so great that one span of it fell, and many people were thrown into the water. I was at the point of rupture, and went with the bridge, but escaped uninjured.

July 3 Aaron Burr married the widow of Stephen Jumel, and subsequently occupied her fine old house (the Roger Morris home, built in 1758) that still stands untouched on the height overlooking Harlem River, just at the edge of the Croton Aqueduct, at about One Hundred and Sixty-first Street (see page 278).

August 1 Sailors' Snug Harbor, on Staten Island, was opened, the corner-stone having been laid in October, 1831.

At the end of August Tyrone Power made his first appearance in America, at the Park Theatre. Power certainly eclipsed all actors, earlier or later, as a delineator of Irish characters. He was here again in 1836 and 1839, and sailed for England on March 21, 1841, in the ill-fated *President*, which never was heard of afterward.

September 3, *The Sun*, the first one-cent paper, edited by Benjamin H. Day, began publication, and was sold by the first newsboy. It did not give editorials or reports of stock sales.

In January, Horace Greeley, in partnership with H. D. Shephard and Francis V. Story, had published and issued a daily paper, *The Morning Post*, price one cent, which lingered and survived for a period of three weeks.

September 4 a deep impression was made upon our public by the first performances at the Park of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wood, who began a season of English opera. "Cinderella" was given on the opening night. Mr. Wood was a competent performer, and his wife had, added to great native talent, the power derived from long study, experience, and native beauty. They were here again in 1835-36, and 1840-41. During the second visit they were ill-affected by an unhappy stage difficulty, which, however, was forgotten on their later appearance.

October 1 lotteries in the State were abolished by an Act of the Legislature.

In this year Stephen Holt built the hotel on Fulton, corner of Pearl and Water streets, to which he gave his name (the house now called the United States); but having changed the entire order of his business, that is, from being the proprietor of a cheap restaurant to the requirements and prices of other hotels, he erred; and later the hotel passed out of his possession. He had been proprietor of a public-house which was burned out in 1814, and failed. Obtaining credit then for another house, corner of Water and Fulton streets, he some years after surprised the public by furnishing what were termed his shilling (12.5 cents) plates, consisting of best Fulton Market beef, or poultry, and potatoes. It was such an innovation upon existing practice and price, that, becoming popular, he reaped sufficient profits to pay off his debts, and commence the construction of the hotel that bore his name. The bed-coverings or quilts for the entire house were covered with "patch-work" made by Mrs. Holt.

In 1827 an Englishwoman, Mrs. Frances Trollope, arrived here, proceeded to Cincinnati, and essayed a busi-

ness there, which proved to be unprofitable. Disappointed and vexed, she published in 1832 her "Domestic Life of the Americans"; a book in which she expressed herself in voluble vituperation of the common customs and manners of the residents of a town, which at that period was, alike to all newly occupied Western settlements, rude in converse and regardless of appearances. She wholly ignored the grandeur of the country and its evidences of a brilliant future, and when launched upon the sea of censure and ridicule she did not confine herself to the West, but declared not only our standard observances and moral character to be inferior to those of England, but, in religious propriety, to be even inferior to that of France. In illustration of our customs and manners she aired her spleen in setting forth the inexplicable indecency, when sitting in a chair, of putting our feet on a table; wearing our hats within doors, of offensive expectoration and ejecting saliva or tobacco juice without heed of the distance. Dickens, I think, put the observed limit at ten paces.

Now, although her criticisms and assertions were engendered in disappointment, national animosity, and revenge, they were essentially true, and however chagrined we were, we acknowledged them as such by essaying to correct our manners; as was afterward universally demonstrated whenever one in public fell within the range of her criticisms, as the cry of "Trollope! Trollope! Trollope!" was immediately vociferated. In illustration of the extent to which such action was practised: at the Park Theatre on an evening when the house was exceptionally full, one of a party occupying a front seat in the centre of the auditorium, soon after the close of the first act, leisurely and inconsiderately turned his back to the stage and rested himself on the front enclosure of the box, whereupon "Trollope! Trollope! Trollope!" was shouted from several quarters, in which I joined; but so

soon as it was apparent that the party was disposed to ignore the rebuke, the pit arose, some occupants of the boxes followed, and the performance was arrested. When the person, in sporting phrase, finally "threw up the sponge," the house gave three cheers, not in compliment to him who had caused the censure, but to itself for its success; and such for many years was the course in public on all similar occasions of evident impropriety or neglect of the accepted observances of society. So much for Mrs. Trollope's book, much talked of at the time. It gave pleasure to the English, but profit to us, however much we may have been annoyed by it at first. Mrs. Trollope was mother of two men of letters, Thomas Adolphus, and his better known brother Anthony, the novelist. Her "*Domestic Life*" has just been reprinted here, and may be commended to my readers as an interesting study for them.

October 3. A meeting in favor of immediate abolition of slavery was called to be held in Clinton Hall (Beekman Street). A crowd assembled at the place to oppose it. Thereupon the permission that had been given to use the hall was withdrawn, and the crowd adjourned to Tammany Hall and passed resolutions disapproving the object of the proposed meeting.

October 9. The boiler of the steamboat *New England*, hence to Hartford, burst; fifteen persons being killed and twenty-six scalded and wounded.

James Fenimore Cooper arrived in New York on November 5, after long residence abroad.

An association known as the New York Opera Company, through the efforts of Lorenzo Da Ponte, constructed a theatre on the corner of Church and Leonard streets, the first structure in New York designed for the representation of Italian operas, which was opened with great *éclat* on November 18, Rossini's "*La Gazza Ladra*" being chosen for the initial performance. The prices were:

boxes, \$1.50; "sofa seats," \$2.00; pit, \$1.00; gallery, 75 cents. But the time was far too early for successful maintenance of an opera-house in New York (indeed the time has not yet arrived for that), and as the enterprise languished, it was abandoned, and in 1836 the place was opened for dramatic performances as the National Theatre. James H. Hackett leased and held it for a



JUMEL MANSION, ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIRST STREET, BETWEEN
NINTH AND TENTH AVENUES

brief period. It was destroyed by fire in September, 1839, rebuilt and again destroyed in May, 1841.

The country market and fish-market at Washington Market was opened on December 16.

I was present at the annual feast of the Krout Club, an organization of many years before, the Chief of which was known as the Grand Krout, and the secretary in the fall of the year announced that his august Chief had been seen to nod, by which he signified his consent to an assemblage of all Krouts. The exercises were announced

to commence at 10 A. M., when the "smoked geese would parade," followed by sauerkraut, which signified that cards would be indulged in until dinner; preceding which the secretary read his annual report, which consisted of a humorous relation of what had occurred and what had not occurred. Stoneall's Hotel, in Fulton Street, was the usual place of meeting, the notice of which was the display of a cabbage head on a pole projected from a window. When the death of a member was announced he was said to have wilted.

In this year President Jackson caused the Government money in the Bank of the United States at Philadelphia, and its several branches, as at New York, Boston, etc., to be withdrawn and deposited in some State banks. The act was vigorously opposed and censured by the opposition press, and public meetings were held in various places for many months after, denouncing the measure; but inasmuch as the bank made a very disastrous failure soon after, the act of the President met with much less condemnation.

About this time a Mr. Xavier Chabert, who figured here as the "Fire-eater," and, being protected by asbestos clothes, would enter a heated oven and emerge with impunity, etc., etc., married the possessor of a life interest in the block bounded by Ninth and Tenth avenues, Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets. To the disgust of parties interested in the progress of Chelsea, she gave leases of the land which were limited by her life. It was held by the objecting parties in Chelsea that the presence of a block of low wooden buildings (many of which were, and were being transplanted, from other localities), cowsheds and stables, would seriously injure them; on the other hand it was asserted that upon death and reversion of the interest, all the encumbrances would be removed. The response was, "Never, so long as they existed,"—and with a few exceptions they yet remain.

This year saw the beginning of the Millerite "craze," which assumed considerable proportions during the ten years or more next succeeding; causing a good deal of talk and newspaper comment and unsettling many weak minds. William Miller, of Hampton, N. Y., believed or pretended that he had discovered from his study of Holy Scripture that the end of the world was near at hand, and prophesied Christ's second coming in the month of April, 1843. The new doctrine was promulgated by preaching and circulation of books and tracts, and secured adherents, many of whom, when the appointed time drew near, divested themselves of their property, as being of no further use to them, and prepared ascension robes, to be in readiness for the great day. Nothing unusual occurring at that time, it was asserted that some error in computation had been found, and that the true date was in October of the same year. A letter in the *Troy Times* of July, 1894, contains an account by the Rev. Professor Wentworth, then of the Troy Conference Academy, of a visit made by him to Miller on this date. Professor Wentworth says that, though it was the night set for the judgment and conflagration of the world, and the faithful were casting away their worldly goods in contempt of all things perishable, it was not so with Miller himself. "He believed," says Dr. Wentworth, "in the Scriptural injunction 'Occupy till I come,' and his fields were clean mown and reaped, his wood-house was full of wood, sawed and piled for winter's use; forty rods of new stone wall had been built that fall, and a drag stood ready with bowlders as a cargo to be laid upon the wall the next day."

Lydia Maria Child's caustic comment on the Millerites was that she had "heard of very few instances of stolen money restored, or falsehoods acknowledged, as a preparation for the dreaded event." Upon the failure of the second prophecy reasons for a new date were forthcoming, and again on March 22, 1844, the Millerites, clad

in their ascension robes, gathered on hill-tops, looking vainly for the Coming in the East. It was a pathetic company, and much of the pathetic quality attended this delusion, in the course of which the more feeble minds became deranged, and not a few persons committed suicide.

During the years embraced in this recital, much discussion of the subject went on among people of a higher class than Miller's proselytes. Thus, the Rev. Dr. Beman of Troy, N. Y. (predecessor in his pastorate of the Rev. Professor Marvin R. Vincent, now of Union Theological Seminary), delivered a course of lectures on the "Second Coming of Christ," which showed some advanced views, though he disclaimed belief in Miller's Immediatism.

Miller outlived his reputation as a prophet, and the end of the world came for him in December, 1849. The Second Adventist sect, however, of which he was the real father, still survives as his monument, having attained the dignity of further sectism and subdivision within itself; some of its members having developed new views of the Trinity, while some retain orthodox opinions; some taking up the Seventh Day notion, while others observe Sunday, etc., etc.

Miller was of course the figure-head, but the brains were in the head of Joshua V. Himes, an early convert, who became the real organizer of the movement and provided and disseminated its literature. In after years, when sect after sect appeared among the remaining adherents of Miller, Mr. Himes continued to be the leader of the more conservative. At the age of seventy-four he received Deacon's orders in the Episcopal Church, at the hands of Bishop Clarkson, and remained in the missionary charge then entrusted to him, and active therein until his death at ninety years, toward the close of 1895. It is a remarkable fact that the Millerite move-

ment largely helped to prepare the way for the Episcopal Church, into which thousands came after "the time" had passed by. It made no converts from that church, but drew from the religious bodies in which the doctrines of the intermediate state, the Resurrection, and the second coming of Christ had been most ignored. The movement was, as has been well said, "the revenge of neglected eschatological truth."

October 13, at the fall meeting of the Jockey Club on Union Course, L. I., there were four entries for the four-mile heats, viz.: "Black Maria," by John C. Stevens; "Trifle," by John C. Craig; "Lady Relief," by E. A. Darcey; and "Slim," by Bela Badger and John C. Tillotson. "Black Maria" won the first heat; the second was declared dead between "Black Maria" and "Trifle"; the third was won by "Trifle"; the fourth by "Lady Relief," and the fifth and last by "Black Maria." "Slim" was distanced in the second heat, and "Trifle" in the fifth. The times of the heats in minutes and seconds were 8.06, 7.55, 8.13, 8.39, and 8.47. The track was heavy from recent rains and the weather cloudy, dark, and cold. This was the first and only twenty-mile race that ever occurred, and with four horses it would occur only with the occurrence of three winning each a heat, and one dead heat. When this performance is compared with that of the Anglomaniac practices here of the present day, of three quarters, seven-eighths, and one and one-quarter mile flat races, the question of an improvement in the race-horses of this day, in all points, over those of half a century ago becomes very problematical.

In this year there was built at Baltimore by Williamson & Kennard, for William McKim, the bark *Ann McKim*, of 494 tons, having greater proportionate length to beam than was the practice, and finer ends, and, as a consequence, she was a faster sailer

than the ordinary vessel of that or a preceding time. She, in fact, approached the construction of a half clipper.

The same party had had built in 1825 the square-top-sail schooner *Yellott*, of two hundred tons. She was of the type of the world-wide-famed Baltimore clippers—long, low, and sharp, with raking masts and great rise of floor; which latter element made this type, from insufficient proportional freight capacity, to be suited only for slavers, privateers, opium smugglers, oyster and fruit bearers, etc. For general freight and long voyages they were unsuited, but for the specific services above named, they were well suited and profitable.

November 25. In or about this period, when Houston Street was being raised to the grade, many feet above the wet lands between Broadway and Third Avenue, a gentleman who had been mayor of the city remarked to his companion in my hearing, "I pity the man who owns this."

The "Red House," fronting on Second Avenue between One Hundred and Tenth and One Hundred and Thirteenth streets, having a vacant area attached, was rented by an association of gentlemen, and occupied solely as a resort for pigeon-shooting; named after the well-known house and grounds for pigeon-shooting near London. In a few years, however, the deaths of three of the principal stockholders and patrons induced the remainder to dispose of the lease, when the place was employed as a hotel, a short trotting-track was laid out, and it soon became the headquarters of driving and trotting. It was here the prowess of "Flora Temple," originally purchased for the considerable sum of eighty dollars, was first evinced.

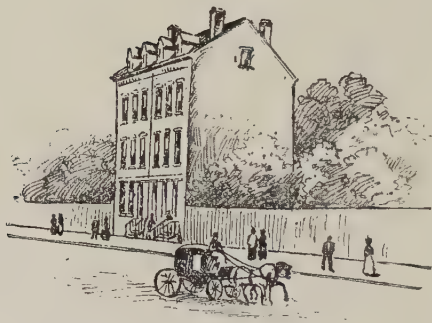
The originators of this enterprise were James Minell, Jehiel Jagger, Jacob Harsen, George W. Blunt, John

Lawrence, and some few others, with whom I was associated.

December 31, Chapel Street (College Place) was widened from Franklin to Murray Street.

In April of the previous year, Lexington Avenue was opened and John Street, from Broadway to Pearl Street, widened, and the New York and Harlem Railroad in operation from Prince Street to Murray Hill.

Shinbone Alley was opened from Wooster Street (University Place) to Fifth Avenue, and between Washington Square and Eighth Street (Washington Place).



WILLIAM NIBLO'S "SANS SOUCI," BROADWAY, NEAR
PRINCE STREET

CHAPTER XV

1834-1835.—GIDEON LEE, 1834, AND CORNELIUS W. LAWRENCE, 1834 AND 1835, MAYORS

1834. THE first steam motor of the Harlem Railroad from terminus to Fourteenth Street was now employed, and later in the year the road was opened to Yorkville. February 11, Platt Street was opened, Pine Street was again widened, from Broadway to Nassau Street; Beaver, from William to Broad Street; Fulton, from Broadway to Ryder's Alley; and Gold from Frankfort to Fulton Street, were widened. In this year Augustus Street was renamed City Hall Place.

In April of the previous year Wooster Street (University Place) was opened from Eighth Street to Fourteenth Street.

I recollect but one florist, and that was a Thomas Hogg, who had a store on Bowery Hill in 1828, in 1832 at 388 Broadway, and in this year in Broadway near Twenty-third Street. The custom of funeral wreaths, flowers in the churches at Easter, *bouquets* at dinners, weddings, or balls, and *boutonnieres*, was unknown.

In this year there were but thirteen markets in the city. About this period was constructed, in Thirteenth Street near Fourth Avenue, a tank designed to furnish water for extinguishing fires; it was in elevation at its surface 104 feet above tide-water, with a capacity of 233,000 gallons, and was supplied from a point where the Jefferson Market and Court House now stand; the water being drawn up from a well supplied from several conducting galleries radiating therefrom, and forced by a steam-engine of 12-horse power. (See *ante*, p. 264.)

A very large bell was placed on the City Hall to give alarms of fire; the city being divided into six areas, radiating from the belfry, numbered one to six; and on the occasion of a fire in one of them, it was designated by a like number of strokes of the bell. It gave a sombre, ominous tone, appropriate to the message it conveyed. Many New Yorkers still in active life will remember the thrilling deep note of "the Hall Bell."

Excitement over the removal of deposits from the United States Bank continued, and meetings of both parties were convened. In January a meeting at the Exchange appointed delegates to convey a memorial to Congress, and in February a large open-air gathering in the Park was the scene of considerable disturbance. On February 7, another meeting in the Exchange and the neighboring part of Wall Street assembled to receive the report of the delegates in charge of the memorial. These things greatly intensified interest in the coming municipal election, which became almost purely political in its nature and was held to bear chiefly on "the Bank question."

In January the old line of Liverpool packets was sold out, and Goodhue & Co. became the agents. This winter there was long delay in westward passages from Europe, and at one time out of forty-six regular packet-ships engaged in European trade from New York but two were in this port, and they on the eve of sailing hence. The latest advices from Liverpool at that date were seventy-one days old.

February 5. The long and embarrassing controversy between this State and New Jersey regarding the boundary line, which was finally defined by the Commissioners, was ratified by our Legislature and by that of New Jersey, and sanctioned by Congress.

The principal lines defined were: The middle of the North River, from a point on the 41st degree of latitude;

the middle of the Bay; of the Strait (Kill von Kull) between Staten Island and New Jersey, and of Raritan Bay to the sea, excepting jurisdiction by New York over Bedlow's, Ellis', and all other islands in those waters then subject to its jurisdiction. A qualified jurisdiction, as it was termed, was retained by New York in the waters of the Hudson River, and the Bay west of New York Island, south of Spuyten Duyvil Creek, and over the lands covered by such waters to low water mark on the Jersey side. New York to have exclusive jurisdiction in relation to quarantine laws and passengers, of and over the waters of Kill von Kull to the west side of Shooter's Island, and also over the waters of the Sound from the west side of Shooter's Island to Woodbridge creek.

April 8 occurred the charter election, the first election of the Mayor by popular vote under the new law. The candidates were Cornelius W. Lawrence, Democrat, and Gulian C. Verplanck, Whig, the latter a firm "Bank Man," the former, "anti-Bank." The interest in the election may be estimated from the fact that many stores were closed at noon to allow working at the polls, and from the great vote that was cast—exceeding thirty-five thousand—and the closeness of the result. The days of election at this period were three, beginning on Tuesday, with a single polling-place in each ward. So close was the result, that it was not until late on Friday that the result of 203 Democratic majority was known; and in the interval of the prolonged canvass the excitement consequent thereon was such as never was witnessed before or since. Wall Street was crowded from morning until evening, and returns from the different wards were proclaimed from the steps of the Merchants' Exchange.

During the progress of this election, and the canvassing of the tickets, there was some rioting, which but for the zealous and effective action of a large number of the

citizens, subsequently supported by a military force, would have been attended with serious results. At the poll in the Sixth Ward, the Whig quarters had been invaded by a party of Democrats, and the ballot distributors were driven out. A body of special police was then formed, led by James Watson Webb, editor of the *Courier and Enquirer*, and the quarters were restored and defended, though at the cost of much fighting and many bodily injuries. Soon after, both parties became highly excited. Wall Street in front of the Merchants' Exchange was thronged. Webb and others addressed the crowd, and it being declared that the arsenal in Elm Street was about being stormed, the Whigs rushed there and took possession of it. Simeon Draper, who was a well-known partisan in the Whig camp, took an active and conspicuous part, and Colonel Arcularius, who was in charge of the arsenal, in his report referred to his action as that of "a man with a claret-colored coat," which designation was jocularly given to Draper for several years after. A body of Democrats, exasperated by the offensive partisanship of Mr. Webb, proposed to attack the office of the *Courier and Enquirer*, but Webb had very considerably provided an armed force within it, and had borne a great number of paving-stones upon the roof to be projected upon the attacking party below. His precautions were not only very well designed, but effective.

April 8. Fulton Street from Broadway to Ryder's Alley widened.

The installation and assumption of office by the first Mayor elected by the people were held to be deserving of more than the usual and restricted ceremony of merely calling and shaking hands. Mr. Lawrence having provided some refreshments, the attendance was so large that it became turbulent and even destructive, rendering necessary the presence of police officers to disperse it.

Though the Democratic Mayor was elected, a Whig

Common Council was chosen, and the Whigs deemed it a triumph, which they celebrated by a banquet at Castle Garden, where a double row of tables ran around the interior, inclosing a pavilion wherein were three pipes of wine and forty barrels of beer, which were dispensed to the crowd. After the banquet a portion of the company was addressed by Daniel Webster from a window of Mrs. Edgar's house in Greenwich Street.

It was during the Mayoralty election of this year that the term "Silk Stocking" party was applied by the Democrats to their opponents, arising from the circumstance that the excitement of the campaign was such as to draw many retired and hitherto non-partisans into it in opposition to the Democrats.

June 25 took place a memorial observance of the death of Lafayette, which had occurred on May 20. A procession, in which the military made an exceptionally fine display, marched from City Hall Park to Castle Garden, where an address was delivered by Frederick A. Tallmadge. The whole proceedings of the day, under direction of the city authorities, were tasteful and becoming as New York's last tribute to the last Major-General of the Continental Army.

July 9, a riot occurred at the Chatham Street Chapel, in consequence of the claim of a musical society to be entitled to the occupancy of the chapel on an evening when some negroes wanted it to hear a preacher of their race. Upon being refused admittance, they burst in, and were eventually removed and quieted by a body of police. On the following evening, a crowd broke into the room and organized a meeting, during which it was insidiously announced by some person that an actor of the New York "Bowery" Theatre, Mr. Fallen, was an Englishman, and that he had expressed himself in an offensive manner regarding this country, and that he was anti-slavery ; where-

upon the party proceeded to the theatre, invaded the house in all parts, and hissed and hooted Hamblin the manager, despite an American flag which he employed as a buckler against the missiles projected at him. Forrest was called for, and Fallen made his escape. The rioters were finally driven out by the police, but being elated with their success at the theatre, they then proceeded to Lewis Tappan's house at 40 Rose Street and sacked it. On the following and succeeding evening a mob sacked the house of the Rev. Dr. Ludlow on Thompson Street; the African Chapel, corner of Church and Leonard streets; St. Philip's Church in Centre Street, and stoned Dr. Cox's church, corner of Varick and Laight streets. A greater part of the rioting and sacking I witnessed.

This might be termed "riot year." In August happened the "Stone-cutters' riot," organized against employment of convicts from Sing Sing in preparing marble for New York buildings, especially the University Building then in progress (the one between Washington Place and Waverly Place, just now removed, 1894). This riot was dispersed only by the Twenty-seventh (now the Seventh) Regiment, which lay under arms in Washington Parade Grounds for four days and nights.

The talk of a new water supply took definite form in the Croton Aqueduct project, for which the beginnings of surveys and estimates were made in this year.

September 29, James Sheridan Knowles was seen at the Park for the first time in America, assuming the part of *Master Walter* in his own "Hunchback." Knowles was but a mediocre actor. He returned to England at the close of the season.

The political canvass of this fall was very animated, New York being the "pivotal State," the vote of which would determine approval of President Jackson, and settle the "Bank question," the probable succession to

the Presidency of Martin Van Buren, etc. The result was a sweeping defeat of the Whigs.

The Murray House, on a tract of land bordered by the Old Boston Road, which gave name to Murray Hill, was destroyed by fire in this year.

Fernando Wood, who was a cigar manufacturer at 133 Washington Street, discontinued the work, and was



STRYKER'S HOUSE, FOOT OF WEST FIFTY-SECOND STREET

employed by Francis Secor & Son, ship carpenters and proprietors of a marine railway, 103 Washington Street. At that time West Street was not continued out so far north, and Washington at that point was open to the river.

John J. Boyd, assistant alderman of the First Ward, introduced in his board a resolution designed to effect the passage of an ordinance requiring houses of prosti-

tution to be licensed and maintained under *surveillance*. The community at large were so wholly unprepared for such an acknowledgment of the existence of these houses, and displayed so much puerility and mawkish sentiment, that his essay was ignored, and socially he suffered for it.

In the fall of this year, and soon after the general election in this State, in which the Democratic party was exceptionally successful, Tyrone Power was performing at the Park Theatre, and Ritchings in his character in the afterpiece, referring to a wig, was required to say "Wigs are out of date," which expression was at once seized upon by a notorious political partisan from the Seventh Ward, who, with some friends, was present in the pit, and he and they applauded vociferously. Thereupon such of the adverse faction as were present hissed, and for a long period the uproar continued, and was quieted only by Ritchings coming forward and disavowing any purpose of allusion to a political party.

November, Mme. Celeste reappeared at the "Bowery" Theatre after some years of absence, and repeated her former triumphs, her engagement lasting (though not continuously) till the next May.

Perhaps I have not sufficiently displayed one theatrical characteristic of this and a somewhat earlier period, which consisted in the dramatization of Scott's and Cooper's novels. It may be safely said that almost all the popular works of those authors were thus presented from time to time, and some of them most successfully. They were given not only as plays, but sometimes in operatic form.

Commodore Vanderbilt, designing to build another steamboat, expressed his views in the presence of a steward of one of his boats, who immediately replied: "I can furnish eight thousand dollars." The surprise of the commodore can be appreciated, when it is related that this man had come into his employ but a few years

previous. This man was subsequently part owner and captain of a steamboat on the Albany line, touching at the State Prison wharf, foot of Christopher Street. It was customary with him to visit the dining cabin before meals, to check any sumptuousness in the furnishing of the table. On one occasion, upon seeing two potatoes on one plate, he exclaimed: "— two potatoes on one plate! Cut them in four pieces and string them along." Occasionally he ventured upon an address to the occupants of the breakfast table. "Ladies and gentlemen, I am very sorry, but my steward did not reach the wharf in time with the breakfast provisions, and as they were all left you must excuse me this time." At the same time the steward was standing aside of him dressed as a waiter. The captain continued in employ, and in a few years after was the principal owner of one of our largest Sound steamers. I was a passenger on the boat on one occasion, and learned of the scene in the cabin from a steamboat man, an intimate acquaintance.

In this year Morris Canal stock was bought up much below par by a party of operators, who "unloaded" it at a great advance. Webb of the *Courier and Enquirer*, for a long while after, was frequently reported by Bennett of the *Herald* as ejaculating "curses on Morris."

July following this a "corner" was operated in stock of the New York and Harlem road, when a settlement was effected by which a profit of over sixty per cent. was realized.

About this period there was edited and published a notoriously vile and scurrilous paper termed *The Hawk and Buzzard*. The burden of its articles was of a villainous character, in keeping with its title. No one of any prominence was safe from its innuendoes; and although not designated by name, his residence or place of business would be pointed out as being not a thousand miles from some locality or building near his house or

office, and in a manner that exposed the party as clearly as if his name had been given. Like a hawk it pounced upon every one inferior in its own manner of warfare, and like a buzzard revelled in offensive and noxious matter. Finally, it became so offensive to society in general that it was held disgraceful to be seen with it, and its publication ceased.

At the political headquarters and polling-place in each ward—for it is to be borne in mind that there was but one such place in each—it was usual to erect a very high spar, surmounted with a gilded cap of liberty, termed a Liberty Pole. In consequence of the enthusiasm of the Whigs about this period, they erected these poles at their ward headquarters. Such erections have since ceased, and unless one had witnessed the rearing of one, he would doubt that the occasion could have been made one of such preparation and consummation—a platoon of mounted horsemen decked with ribbons, a band of music, grand marshal and his aids, flags, emblems, citizens in carriages and on foot, speeches, fireworks, etc. In fact, it was a display “more honored in the breach than in the observance.”

In this year M. M. Noah founded the *Evening Star*. It supported Harrison in 1840. In 1841 it was merged with the *Commercial Advertiser*.

1835. In this year the following streets were widened: Wall Street, at Pearl; Chatham, from Pearl to Mott; Liberty, from Nassau to William; New, from Wall to Beaver; William, from Wall to Maiden Lane; and Centre both widened and extended from Grand to Chatham. Coenties Slip was partly filled in.

January 12. The question of the relative merits of the New York and Philadelphia fire-engines being constantly discussed, the Common Council deputed a committee from its members to proceed to Philadelphia and procure one of its “gallery” or “double-decked engines,”

which it did, and subsequently a second was obtained. They had much greater capacity, but were too cumbersome for a light company of men.

February 28, the St. Nicholas Society was organized, Peter G. Stuyvesant elected president and Hamilton Fish, secretary. A preliminary meeting had been held on the 14th, of which Washington Irving was secretary. The first annual meeting was held and celebrated on December 30.

May 6. The first number of the *Morning Herald*, subsequently the New York *Herald*, edited and published by James G. Bennett & Co., from the basement of No. 20 Wall Street, appeared this day in four pages of four columns $10\frac{1}{4}$ by $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches, price one cent; the second number on the eleventh. On the 31st of August it appeared as the *Herald*, by James Gordon Bennett, and subsequent to this as the *Morning Herald* and again as the *Herald*. The ultimate success of this essay was held to be very questionable; but the tone of the articles, aided by some interesting letters with the *nom de plume* of "Hector" from Washington, furnished by a resident who had held office there for many years, until displaced by a change in the administration, was such as to please and interest the public, and its success was assured.

Randall's Island was purchased by the city for fifty thousand dollars. In May, Mary Gannon, so long familiar at Wallack's in after years, made her first appearance, as a child of six, at this house. Fanny Kemble's *Journal*, now exciting attention, having compared reporters to "bugs," an amusing burlesque entitled "The Bugs," in which some of Miss Kemble's peculiarities were satirized, was produced amid much laughter at the "Bowery" in July.

May 11, Tompkins Street was ordered to be opened from Thirteenth Street to Twenty-third Street. Subsequently rescinded.

Franklin Market at Old Slip was destroyed by fire; and rebuilt in 1836.

The University Building on Wooster Street (now University Place), begun in 1833, was finished.

This year saw the printing of newspapers by steam for the first time, under the auspices of Robert M. Hoe, the *Sun* being the first paper thus printed. The average daily circulation of the six leading newspapers was computed not to exceed seventeen hundred.

Up to this period there were no real estate brokers; the business, when an outside party was employed, being confined to James Bleeker & Son, auctioneers.

Greenwich Market, located in 1813 in Christopher Street, from Greenwich to Washington Street, was on ground vested in the city by the vestry of Trinity Church, with the provision that when it ceased to be used as a market it should revert to the church. In this year, in consequence of the diversion of its tenants to the Spring Street and other markets, it was taken down, and the area by ordinance was retained and appropriated for market purposes in order to prevent the church from taking possession.

A well-known citizen and enterprising builder, who designed and constructed the Colonnade Row of houses in Lafayette Place, was in the habit of visiting an oyster cellar in Broadway near Lispenard Street in the evening, which had a double door of entrance, or, that when they are very narrow are termed two half-doors. Through the opening of one he passed when entering the cellar, but upon departing it was related that the second fold was necessarily opened to admit of his passing out. This was not an invidious charge, it was a fact, and one I have witnessed, and of which operation it may aptly be quoted, *Facilis descensus Averni est, sed revocare gradum, superasque evadere ad auras, hoc opus, hic labor est.*

Samuel F. B. Morse, in his essays to convince the people of the practicability and consequent utility of generating and controlling an electric current, caused to be

laid a metallic wire around the inner circle of Castle Garden, and publicly exhibited the passage of an electric current through the wire. He had conceived the idea in 1832.

Grant Thorburn, a grocer in 1797 at No. 22 Nassau, a seedsman and florist in 1806 at No. 22 Liberty Street, from his eccentricity, loquacity, quaker-clothes, and crippled gait, etc., was a well-known character. He told me once he had "wrought with Tom Paine." When the *morus multicaulis* fever broke out he, with many others, was seized with it—so virulently that he planted mulberry trees on an extensive scale—and while others withdrew at the proper time, or in the language of the day, "sold out," he, from the force of a fervid imagination, retained faith in the success of the enterprise, and when it failed signally he was financially ruined. Thorburn was well known as "Laurie Todd," a name which he appended to his frequent newspaper contributions.

The New York and Erie Railroad, a preliminary survey for which had been made in 1825, through the southern tier of counties, was not approved of, but in 1832 the company was incorporated, in 1833 organized, and in this year a final survey was made, and on the 7th of November the construction of the roadway commenced. The company applied to the legislature for State aid to the amount of two million dollars, but the application was refused.

This was a season of very great apparent business prosperity in New York, with inflated prices for every sort of commodity. City real estate, in particular, showed unheard of values, some considerable transfers being made at prices four times as high as were paid for the same property but few years earlier.

The Book Club, founded by the Rev. Dr. Wainwright, was one of the favorite institutions of this time, holding

fortnightly meetings at the Washington Hotel. In spite of its name, the Club was rather convivial than literary, though the meetings were much attended by men of literary tastes, as Halleck, Ogden Hoffman, Dr. Francis, etc.

The Croton Aqueduct project, being submitted to popular vote at the spring election, was adopted by a large majority.

In June of this year our native citizens became excited upon a call issued in one of the newspapers for attendance at a meeting with a view to organize an O'Connell Guard. On the 21st of that month an encounter took place between two parties in Grand near Crosby Street in which Dr. McCaffrey was killed. The riot extended to Pearl Street, when it was arrested, and the crowd partially dispersed. On the 22d, a mob proceeded to a restaurant in the Bowery, near Broome Street, known as the Green Dragon, broke in, and destroyed tables, chairs, etc., before it could be checked. This was known as "the Five Points Riot."

June 16, Wall Street widened on south side from Broad to Pearl Street.

In or about 1832 a party of young gentlemen of the city organized a boat club, elected Charles Fenno Hoffman captain, and had a very commodious barge constructed. The example was soon followed by others, and in this year the number of boat clubs was at its height. There was an annual regatta at which prizes were competed for. July 21st there was a boat race for one thousand dollars between the boats *Eagle* and *Wave*, which was won by the latter.

August 12th, a fire broke out at 115 Fulton Street, that involved almost the whole printing and publishing neighborhood. Before it could be checked it had burned both sides of Fulton Street for nearly a block, both sides of Ann Street to Nassau (including the Roman Catholic

church, which originally was Episcopal, and owned by the Rev. Mr. Selden), and a dozen buildings in Nassau Street. Five lives were lost, and as the buildings burned were chiefly new, the pecuniary loss also was great.

August 27, a public meeting of citizens, for the purpose of expressing their opinion in relation to the action of the Abolitionists, was called to meet in the City Hall Park. On assembling, the Mayor was called on to preside, and the attendance was not only large, but in the character of those who took an active part in the proceedings it was far in advance of any public assemblage I ever witnessed.

In the fall of this year the Street Department commenced a test of the fitness of wooden block pavement; the point selected was in Broadway between Chambers and Warren streets. Hemlock blocks were well bedded on a foundation somewhat alike to a "Telford." For some months vehicles ran over the surface so smoothly and noiselessly that the public were in raptures, and Mr. Brower, then the proprietor of the largest line of Broadway omnibuses, remarked in my presence that he would give one hundred dollars per year for each of his stages if Broadway were paved in like manner throughout. How long this desirable condition of the pavement lasted I do not recollect, but I do know that within a year that which remained of it was positively ludicrous in its condition—irregularly worn, depressed in spots, risen in others, and the voids patched and plastered with cobble-stones and cement.

The difficulty was, the bedding was not sufficiently stable for the blocks, and they were too soft for the travel in Broadway at that point.

September. It was alleged that parties in New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, and Norfolk had contributed the sum of one hundred thousand dollars to be expended in the abduction of either Arthur or

Lewis Tappan, two zealous Abolitionists, and that it was designed to avail of a favorable opportunity to seize and carry them to a vessel awaiting off Sandy Hook.

Later, it was further alleged that the Committee of Vigilance of East Feliciana, La., offered a premium of fifty thousand dollars to any one who would kill Arthur Tappan, then the head of the anti-slavery movement; both of which offers were very generally disapproved of, both at the North and the South.

October 4, a party of young Englishmen, the guests of the Marquis of Waterford, who had lately arrived here in his yacht, consisting of Lords John Beresford and Jocelyn and Colonel Dundas, indulged in a night spree in the streets, amusing themselves, to the inconvenience of all others, until they were arrested by watchmen, kept in the watch-house all night, and arraigned before Justice Hopson in the morning.

October 21, the steamboat *Champlain*, of the New York and Albany Line, made the run from Albany in eight hours and seventeen minutes, exclusive of stoppages at different landings.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the City of New York organized. The headquarters of this Society is in Paris; its objects are the practice of Christian life; the visiting and succoring of the poor, etc.*

At this time there was a very serious dissension in the Democratic party, incited in a great measure by Mr. William Leggett, the editor of the *Evening Post*, one of the ablest political writers of the period. Logical, caustic, and wholly regardless of the favor of any one, he was an acknowledged power. Levi D. Slamm and Alex. Ming, Jr., a printer, were converts to his views, and they led a numerous band of partisans. On the occasion of a

* In 1874, a similar Institution, The United Hebrew Charities of the City of New York, was organized, its objects being to relieve distress among the Hebrew poor and to prevent pauperism.

County meeting at Tammany Hall, on October 25, the room was filled by the partisans of the Regular Democracy and the discontented; the latter being led by Slamm and Ming, who anticipated that the regulars would resort to an act that had been practised with success on a previous occasion, viz.: submitting resolutions, declaring them carried, and then, by previous arrangement, and at a signal, having the gas turned off; thus terminating the meeting. But the opponents were well supplied with candles and friction matches, then universally termed *loco foco*, and so soon as the gas was turned off, as actually happened, they lighted their candles, organized, and proceeded with their business. This action gave rise to the *sobriquet* of Loco Foco party, and the Democratic party was thus designated for many years afterward. *Ex nomine cuius venit verbum vernaculum*. The object of the opposition at this meeting was to defeat the nomination of Gideon Lee for Congress. This year the Native American party nominated a Congressional candidate in New York. The opposition papers, in referring to the party in this city, termed it that of "Slamm, Bang, Ming & Co."

Booth the tragedian sometimes suffered the affliction under which the great George Frederick Cooke* (whose monument is to be seen in St. Paul's Churchyard) frequently suffered. On an occasion of his appearing as *Iago* at the "Bowery" Theatre, he abruptly left the stage, made an exit through a back door, and was not found for some days. When found, however, and brought

* It is related of Cooke (George Frederick) that when in a condition that necessitated his being brought to the theatre, he would still perform in a perfectly satisfactory manner. A gentleman of my acquaintance, who was an enthusiastic admirer of him, told me that he had seen him perform *Richard III.* in three manners, viz.: as an abashed villain, as usually represented, as a deep and cunning schemer, and as a dashing and chivalrous gentleman.



EXCHANGE PLACE, CORNER OF HANOVER STREET

to the theatre, he signed an apology to the public for his unconscious act, caused "by mental inquietude, etc," or words to that effect, whereupon he was again engaged and for a time performed acceptably.

The United States frigate *Constitution* arrived here from Boston, where, with the exception of a piece of her keel, she had been wholly reconstructed upon her original lines. Ordinarily, the ornamented heads of our vessels of war were simple "billet heads," as they were termed; but in this case, in compliment to General Jackson, then President, who had interposed to prevent the said vessel from being wholly destroyed and her name erased from the roll of the Navy, a full figure of him was substituted. At this period political partisanship (Whigs and Demo-

crats) was being conducted with a vigor and asperity more alike to that of the early days of the Republic than any exhibition of it that has since occurred, and it partook also of especial animosity to General Jackson. On a stormy night when the *Constitution* was at anchor off the Navy Yard, the head of the figure was sawn off, and said to have been taken to Philadelphia, where at a dinner it was brought in on a salver. In the mean time the vessel was ordered to New York, where a head by the ship-carvers, Messrs. Dodge, was restored.

The man who was said to have committed the act, so generally applauded by Whigs and equally condemned by the Democrats, was reported to have died a few months since (1894). I knew him, and in manner and sentiment and figure, he was just such as one would select for such a hazardous enterprise.

The mission of the *Constitution* was to proceed to France, and if the Indemnity Bill, awarding the claims of our countrymen for spoliation during the late war of France with England, had not passed, she was to bear the American Minister to the United States, but, if it had passed, she was to proceed to the Mediterranean. She proceeded.

The attention of real estate speculators having become directed from Second Avenue and St. Mark's Place to Brooklyn property, especially the water-front, farms at Gowanus, Red Hook, etc.—land which could have been bought for one hundred dollars per acre a very few years previous—were sold for five and six hundred dollars. It was an ephemeral valuation, and when reaction came, as it did in 1837, the prices decreased as rapidly as they had risen, and to an extent that induced not only foreclosures, but voluntary abandonments of the purchases with the loss of the amount paid. An amusing account was current of an enterprise of a tradesman, a shop-keeper in a small way in William Street, a Mr. Pepoo; who, becoming

interested in the daily recitals of fortunes being realized in a brief period by purchasing real estate in Brooklyn, visited the Exchange on the occasion of a great sale of lots at Gowanus, described as having a valuable water-front. In the progress of the sale he became seized with the spirit of speculation, and successfully bid for some lots with a water-front, paid the percentage for deposit, and so self-satisfied was he with his action that he felt justified in treating himself to a dinner at Delmonico's. The next day he proceeded to visit his newly acquired property, and upon arriving in the locality, and describing his lots on the auctioneer's map, a boatman rowed him some distance from the shore and pointing down one of his oars and his arm also, exultingly said: "This is about the corner of your lots." Mr. Pepoo returned home a sadder but a wiser man.

An Englishman, an editor of *The Sun*, Richard Adams Locke, who for some weeks had been engaged on a concerted scheme to bring the paper into notoriety, ingeniously conceived the recital of an alleged late success in the construction of a telescope by Sir J. F. W. Herschel, affirming that the article had been copied from a philosophical journal of Edinburgh. He declared that by the new telescope the surface of the moon was as clearly shown as if it was but a few miles distant; so near, was it stated, that the existence and even the conformation of inhabitants was shown, and they were bats, evidently, from his description, of the *ordo cheiroptera*; and so graphically was the whole portrayed that editors of many newspapers and the general public were deceived. Clergymen recognized the alleged developments, and pronounced them a work of the Supreme, and although many persons declared that they did not credit the account, it was very widely believed; and some papers published the main features of Locke's article, asserting that it was copied by them from the designated Edin-

burgh journal. A professor in a Southern college, on reading the description of the instrument, observed that such a construction was wholly impracticable, and he immediately declared the account a deliberate hoax. It was ever after known as the "Moon Hoax." So frequently does it occur that the plots of many of the most noted criminals and perpetrators of crimes have been discovered by the omission of some little factor or detail of the defence. So great was the public interest in this matter that an *extravaganza* was produced at the "Bowery" Theatre, entitled "Moonshine, or Lunar Discoveries."

On the evening of the 16th of December, the great fire, as it was then and since has been termed, broke out between eight and nine o'clock at No. 25 Merchant Street, now Hanover Street. The area covered by it was computed at fifty acres, being bounded by South Street, Coenties Slip, Broad and Wall streets, including twenty blocks of buildings, the Merchants' Exchange, the Post-office, and two churches. The fire spread very rapidly, and soon became unmanageable. In the efforts to save property, horses and carts were purchased at prices that seemed fabulous, and forthwith employed in the removal of goods. In many instances goods that were transported to an apparent place of safety were there burned, and in some instances others were removed a second and a third time. The thermometer indicated a temperature of ten degrees below zero, the fire hydrants in most cases were frozen, and where they were not, the water from them froze in the hose. Moreover, the water in the slips was so low, from long prevalence of a strong north-west wind, that it could not be reached from wharves with the suction-pipes. The engines froze tight when they were not worked constantly, and many became inactive from this cause.

Concerning the removal of goods: An intimate friend

of mine, a partner in a very prominent house, came to me and in a very satisfied manner and tone of voice told me that he was safe, the fire would not reach him. "Safe!" I replied. "Remove your goods immediately, and don't stop short of the Battery." "Do you think so?" he replied. "Yes, and do you be quick too." He proceeded to remove his goods near to Coenties' Slip, at two hundred dollars per hour for carts. Soon after he again removed what was left of them to the Battery. I have stated that in many cases horses and carts were bought for exorbitant sums. Such enterprise was not manifested, however, until after it became evident that all policies for insurance were of no value.

The arrest of the fire in its lines of progress was essayed by blowing up adjoining buildings, but except in one case, near Coenties' Slip, the operation was a failure. In Exchange Street, the second store from one that was burning was selected for destruction; a keg of powder was put by me in the centre of the cellar, and a board fitted from the top of it to the under side of the floor beams above; I then unrolled a roll of textile fabric and led it over an inclined board from the keg to the floor and out into the street. Removing the head of another barrel, powder taken from it was led in a train over the fabric to straw taken from a champagne basket and ignited. The explosion occurred, and the effect was so general upon the entire building that, falling down in a mass, the exposed rafters, floor, beams, and woodwork rapidly ignited, and the effect upon the adjoining store was more destructive than the fire would have been in its natural progress. It happened that the double warehouse of Pentz & Co. was blown up against the owners' will, they thinking the building to be fire-proof. They therefore refused to give up the keys, and the doors were forced by the authorities. Pentz & Co. afterward recovered more than two hundred thousand dollars damages

from the city for the property thus forcibly taken and destroyed, though it would have been burned in the course of the conflagration had it remained.

The fire raged for two nights, not ceasing till the third day. It was reported to have been seen in New Haven and in Philadelphia. On the second day a body of four hundred Philadelphia firemen came to relieve their exhausted fellow-firemen of New York. The railway was not at this time entirely complete, and the Philadelphians had to drag their engines across a gap of six miles, over sandhills. The loss was estimated at fifteen millions of dollars; a similar destruction at the present time would involve a loss of two hundred millions. The insurance companies were all (or very nearly all) made bankrupt. At a meeting of citizens, called by the Mayor on the 19th, a committee of one hundred and twenty-five was appointed to pursue various measures of relief; in consequence of which the Legislature authorized a city loan of six millions for advances on the securities held by insurance companies, in order that cash for payment of losses, so far as the assets would allow, might be speedily forthcoming. A great meeting in Philadelphia passed resolutions calling on the General Government for financial aid to New York. Yet such were the enterprise, the courage, and elastic temper of the city that, only in the next February, twenty lots in the burned district were sold by auction for more than they would have brought before the fire, when occupied by valuable buildings. A statue of Alexander Hamilton by Ball Hughes, placed in the Rotunda of the Merchants' Exchange, was destroyed in the great fire. Of this fire I can truly add : *Omnium quorum vidi et quorum pars fui.*

Soon after the fire a meeting of merchants and insurance men was held, at which committees were appointed to apply to Congress for an extension of the time of payment of duties, in order to enable the people to meet the

costs of the regulation of the streets within the area of the burned district, the erection of new buildings, etc.

Up to this time the Episcopal Church had maintained but one diocese in the entire State, but shortly afterward (1838) the diocese of Western New York was created, to be followed by further division at different dates into the present five dioceses within the State. This Church has enjoyed extraordinary growth. In 1835 it counted 214 parishes, 194 clergy, and 9738 communicants in the whole State ; the returns of 1894 show, within the same area, 850 parishes, 875 clergy, and 140,000 communicants.

December 22, died Dr. David Hosack, perhaps the foremost physician of his day, a man of varied culture. He had an extensive family connection among New York society, and was one of the best known personages in the city at that time.

Referring to the files of a city paper of this and some preceding years, to verify a date, I noticed that the list of members of our State Legislature, in and about the year 1829, presented the names of solid citizens, members of a legal trade or a profession, having a stake in the interests of the people, whether in enacting safeguards for the protection of their property, penal laws, the granting of aid to eleemosynary institutions, or authorizing facilities to meet the increased demands of an increasing population, and without looking to any pecuniary remuneration or "boodle," as it now is so generally and vulgarly termed, viz.: Representatives in Congress were Gulian C. Verplanck, Campbell P. White, Elisha W. King, Churchill C. Cambreleng, and Pierre C. Van Wyck ; and Aldermen Campbell P. White, Samuel Gilford, Richard S. Williams, Lambert Suydam, William Gracie, Evert A. Bancker, Pierre C. Van Wyck, Jonathan I. Coddington, Philip Brasher, Richard L. Schieffelin, Egbert Benson, and many others of like stamp.

Neither did the candidates for election expend to exceed twelve thousand dollars to attain it, as a Senator vauntingly declared in my presence; who had withdrawn from a lucrative trade to become a politician of the type designated machine, joining the dominant party even at the reversal of his fealty to his faction: neither did they bow to the *dicta* of a Tweed or the counsel of a Connolly—one who had at his entrance into political and public life deservedly acquired the *sobriquet* of “Slippery Dick,” the fitness of the term being steadfastly and uniformly maintained in all his acts and promises; neither were there any among them who were the proprietors of premises which were a medley of brothel, gambling house, rum and policy shops, or their *locale*, where “knock-out drops” on fitting occasions were administered to a casual patron, or were known in the locality and designated to the passer-by by the inelegant but indicative designation of “The Burned Rag” and like appellations. Nor did an aspirant for a nomination to an elective office, State or civil, seek for support among the denizens of “Mackerelville,” “Hell’s Kitchen,” or prefer a claim for pecuniary credit because he had just been elected an alderman, and at a period when there was not any salary attached to the office.

Later, there was a powerful association, the location of which was principally in the lower part of the Bowery, and known as “The Dead Rabbits,” which not only controlled nominations or defeated candidates for office and sent members to the Common Council, but in one case a Representative to Congress. The origin of the designation was the result of a defiance between two factions of a fraternity of rowdies and loungers, one of whom, in passing the room where a number of the adverse party had assembled, threw a dead rabbit at them through the window. *Le vrai n'est pas toujours le vraisemblable.*

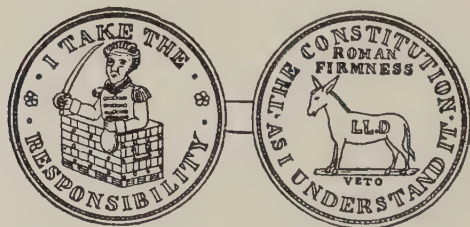
In referring to my proof-sheets I observe that I have

omitted some relations worthy of record, and I now give them.

When President Jackson directed the United States deposits to be removed from the custody of the United States Bank and its branches (see p. 279), the measure was not only condemned by his political opponents, but it was derisively represented by the issue of a great number of copper tokens, representing the President as within an iron chest, holding a sword in one hand and a bag of money in the other, and quoting, "I take the responsibility," and on the obverse, a jackass as typical of the "Roman firmness" he was credited with, and the legend, "The Constitution as I understand it."

Although the issue of these tokens was not confined to this city, yet as they were designed and made here, and in view of the pivotal political status of both the State and city, they were more generally circulated here than elsewhere, replacing the "head and tail" of the cent as an instrument of decision by "Jackson or jackass."

Tompkins Street was opened to Rivington Street in 1826. Anthony Street extended to Orange Street in 1832.



CHAPTER XVI

1836-1837.—CORNELIUS W. LAWRENCE, 1836-1837,
AARON CLARK, 1837, MAYORS

1836. In this year the "burned district," as the area of the great fire of the year preceding was termed, was improved in some of its street lines. Also Cherry, from Catherine Street to Franklin Square; Grove Street; Stone, from William to Broad; Maiden Lane at the corner of Nassau; John, from Broadway to Pearl Street; and Pine, from Nassau to William Street, were widened.

The area bounded by the Bowery, Art and Eighth streets, and Lafayette Place was made a public place. The statue of Samuel S. Cox is now in its centre.

Monroe Market, on Grand, Monroe, and Corlears streets, was constructed to replace the one in Grand Street, which was held to be too much of an obstruction to travel, and was removed.

The Screw Docks, incorrectly so termed, fronting on South Street between Market and Pike streets, first located in 1828 between Front and South streets, were necessarily removed in this year in order to open South Street.

An ordinance was passed for the opening of Eleventh Street from the Bowery (now known as Fourth Avenue) to Broadway, but Mr. Brevoort, who owned contiguous property, delayed and resisted its operation. In 1849 a second ordinance like to that of 1836 was passed, and it was met by Mr. Brevoort with equal and successful resistance.

In this year the building was begun of the new Custom House (now the Sub-Treasury).

The Union Theological Seminary was established, next to the University, at Washington Parade Ground.

This was a time of rapid growth for the press. For many years a new newspaper appeared almost annually, The New York *Daily Express and Daily Advertiser*, edited by James and Erastus Brooks, first appeared in June of this year, from its office in the Tontine Building. The *Herald* was enlarged, and its price raised to two cents. James Gordon Bennett, editor of the *Herald*, erroneously published in a list of failures the name of John Haggerty, the leading auctioneer at the time of package goods. Haggerty sued him and obtained a verdict, after which Bennett frequently referred to him as John O'Haggerty, alleging that he was of Irish descent. On January 19, James Watson Webb, of the *Courier and Enquirer*, retaliated for an attack upon himself published in the *Herald*, by assaulting Bennett in Wall Street, where he knocked him down and beat him.

In January the "Bowery" Theatre produced Miss Medina's drama founded on Theodore S. Fay's novel of "Norman Leslie," which was elaborately furnished by the management and had a long run. Fay and myself were classmates at Nelson's.

In evidence of the severity of the winter, on the night of the great fire the thermometer indicated 10° minus, and in the latter part of this month a Long Island newspaper records that two gentlemen crossed the sound on the ice, from the Island to Rye, and returned—a distance of fifteen miles. On the 4th of February both the North and East rivers were crossed on ice.

February, Maria Monk, a nun in a monastery in Montreal, escaped and published her experience there, making severe charges against practices, which, being denied by Roman Catholics and sustained by others, involved a very severe and protracted dispute, which was continued with so much virulence and referred to by clergymen of

all sects, that a mob gathered one evening for the purpose of burning St. Patrick's Church in Mott Street. The purpose having been communicated to the Catholics, they not only filled the church with armed men, but the walls were in some places crenellated. As a result the church was too well protected to allow a storm, and the mob dispersed.

March 16. The rivalry between the two medical colleges, "Barclay" and "Rutgers," led to many disputations among the members of the faculty and students, and on this day a personal *rencontre* occurred in the American Hotel, corner of Broadway and Barclay Street, in which several of the professors of the two colleges were participants.

March 21, at Cato's, on Boston Road and Fifty-second Street, two well-known gentlemen met, and offence being taken at the act of one of them, a knock-down occurred, followed by a challenge to meet at Montreal; both parties forthwith proceeded there, one of them with a friend, and the other alone, depending upon an acquaintance there, who was absent; and as the officers of the garrison then had agreed not to act as the friends of any person coming there from the States, he was unable to obtain a party to meet that of his antagonist, who, after waiting a day, returned to the city, where the action of both parties was very freely commented and dwelt upon by the friends of both: one party being censured for leaving without communication with the other, the other for leaving here without a friend; and on the 2d of May, the one who was unable to obtain a friend in Montreal, being accompanied by a friend here, met two of the adverse party in Washington Hall, and a *fracas* occurred, in which one of the former party was slightly wounded with a sword cane.

May 4. Whilst a very extensive fire was raging in Houston and First streets it was communicated to the firemen that their chief engineer, James Gulick, had been

removed by the Board of Aldermen then in session, and John Ryker, Jr., appointed in his place. Gulick was very popular with the firemen, and his abrupt removal elicited such a feeling of resentment that a great majority of them turned the front of their caps behind, and arrested operation. Such condition being communicated to the Mayor, he appeared on the ground, and succeeded in



VARIAN HOUSE, BROADWAY AND TWENTY-SIXTH STREET

controlling the indignation of the firemen, so that they returned to their duty, and the further extension of the fire was stopped.

Gulick was elected Register in November of the year by a majority in every ward in the city. The next spring his successor, John Ryker, Jr., was removed, and Cornelius V. Anderson was appointed in his place. It was said that nine-tenths of the firemen had resigned previous to this, and perhaps this was true of full one-quarter of them, but they returned upon Anderson's appointment. The

manner of Ryker's appointment was objected to. Anderson was a singularly good chief, and much improved the apparatus of the Department, which the authorities had been slow to do. In his day, buildings were said to be "running up to the height of four and five stories" in New York.

May 23, Webb of the New York *Enquirer* published an article charging Wood, the actor, with offensive actions toward a favorite actress, whereupon the audience on the evening of the day of the publication hissed Wood, who advanced to the footlights and denied that there was any just foundation for the charge; his denial was accepted so far as to arrest any further demonstration. On the following morning Webb, in his peculiar and persistent manner, republished the charge. Wood challenged him, the audience renewed their hissing in the evening, and Webb the morning after, the 28th, addressed an article to the public, calling upon it to assemble at the theatre and drive Wood off the stage. Such a call was sure to be responded to, in attracting great numbers to the theatre, which it did, and as a result Mr. Simpson was compelled to come forward and announce the withdrawal of the Woods and the annulment of their engagement. I was present the first night, but avoided the second and last, having been present at the Anderson riot in 1831.

May 30. The Astor House, on Broadway between Vesey and Barclay streets, was opened in this year by Boyden of the Tremont, Boston, and deeded by John Jacob Astor to his son William B. for one dollar, and was the wonder of the time. The interior of the quadrangle, now containing the bar, lunch-counters, etc., was then a garden, affording a pleasant view from the windows of the inner rooms. Flower beds extended along the sides, next to the building, inclosing an expanse of turf with walks, and a pretty fountain in the centre. The smoking-

room of the hotel commanded this view from the east. These conditions remained unchanged for many years.

It was in this year that the *dicta* of trades-unions came into such conflict with the rights of individuals that the criminal law was referred to and exercised in their behalf.

A number of Union journeymen tailors stood out—"struck" is the word of a later day—for an increase of pay, and assaulted some non-union men who preferred to work at the pay they were receiving rather than to try to increase it by refusing to work at all. The assailants were arrested and convicted, when a diabolical and inflammatory hand-bill was posted in which freemen were called upon to go to the Park and witness the sentencing of their fellows to servitude; but, notwithstanding this, Judge Edwards sentenced them.

The Board of Aldermen were summarily convened, and adopted an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to offer a reward for the discoverer of the printer, author, or poster of the bills.

Following this the men employed in the loading and unloading of vessels—stevedores and laborers—decided to demand an increase of pay, which being denied, they proceeded to prevent those from working who were willing to continue for the existing wages. So formidable was the number of "strikers" as they were termed, that some captains of vessels in progress of being discharged or loaded armed their crews to defend their work. Whereupon Jacob Hays, the High Constable, proceeded to where the strikers had assembled and addressed them literally as follows:

"Gentlemen and Blackguards—go home or go along with me. Taint no way this to raise wages. If your employers won't give you your price, don't work; keep home and lay quiet—make no riots here, I don't allow them things. Come, march home with you; your wives and children want you—no way this to raise wages."

The stand taken by the stevedores was followed by that of the laborers at work upon the ruins of the late fire in the removal of bricks, etc., and so formidable was their attack upon those who were willing to work that it became necessary to resort to military power to control them.

During this year the up-town movement made great advances, the dwellings below Chambers Street commanding so high prices for purposes of constantly expanding business that the occupants could scarce afford to retain them for domestic use. Thereupon, up-town property increased greatly in selling value, and rents rose enormously; in fact this was a period of high prices for every thing, with all the marks of a speculative era.

Miss Harriet Martineau visited New York in April and was well received, attracting the attention which, among us in those simpler days, was the sure perquisite of any European author of tolerable reputation.

Up to this time, and for many years afterward, or until the number of social clubs had much increased, the side rooms of our principal hotels were essentially club-rooms for many persons. Numbers of bachelors and young men were in the habit of resorting to each hotel, confident of making there a social, and even a convivial party. The City Hotel and Washington Hall had each a set of evening visitors, as well defined and almost as exclusive as if they were members of a club. Colonel Nicholas (Nick) Saltus, at the City Hotel, assumed and was conceded the prerogatives of the presiding officer of a club. But on June 17 of this year was founded the Union Club, earliest of all in New York, using the word in its modern sense. The meeting for its organization was attended by many of the most eminent citizens. June 1 of the following year the club-house, then at 343 Broadway, was first opened to members. In the spring of 1842, the growing need of larger accommoda-



HOUSE OF NICHOLAS WILLIAM STUYVESANT, THIRTEENTH AND
SIXTEENTH STREETS AND AVENUES FIRST AND A.

tions compelled the first of the club's northward journeys, and it removed to 376 Broadway. In the autumn of 1850 it yielded further to the up-town tendency, and settled itself at 691 Broadway, remaining there until the occupancy of its present house at Fifth Avenue and Twenty-first Street, in 1854.

February 18, the Methodist Book Concern, occupying a five-story building on Mulberry Street in which two hundred persons were employed, was burned. The weather was extremely cold and the hydrants were frozen, so that the destruction was complete. Some of the burned books, carried by the wind from this fire, were found in adjacent parts of Long Island, and among them, it was said, a charred leaf of a Bible on which the only

words legible were the verse, Isaiah lxiv. 11 : "Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is burned up with fire; and all our pleasant things are laid waste." I think it was in the spring of this year that the beautiful Mrs. Shaw first appeared in America, at the Park Theatre. She had many charms and was greatly popular. In 1839 she joined the "Bowery" company which, though a successful engagement, did not tend to increase her artistic reputation, and as her attractions declined she lost in some degree her hold on public favor. She married Hamblin, the "Bowery" manager, in 1849.

The Richmond Hill Theatre was opened in mid-June by Mrs. Hamblin, well supported for a time. Here appeared Caroline Fox, at seven years, afterward Mrs. G. C. Howard, the famous *Topsy*.

April 11, Helen Jewett, a boarder in a house in Thomas Street kept by Rosina Townsend, was murdered; the bed-clothes being ignited with a view to conceal the murder by the destruction of the body. A young man, Richard P. Robinson, who was at the time a clerk with Joseph Hoxie, was arrested, charged with the crime, tried, and although the evidence against him was so convincing that scarcely a doubt of his guilt was entertained, yet, in consequence of a man at the close of the trial being found who swore to meeting Robinson at the time that the murder was committed, the accused was acquitted. It was charged and credited that a juror had been bribed so as to secure a disagreement. I knew the man who swore to the *alibi*, and knew him to be unworthy of credence, not from venality or other influence, but from mental weakness. This was a very celebrated case, and will be remembered by every New Yorker who was at that time capable of observation and memory of events. Ogden Hoffman, who defended Robinson, delivered an address to the jury that for eloquence was

equal to any like essay; his delivery of "That poor boy!" by those who witnessed it will never be forgotten.

It was currently charged soon after, and even published later, that a person who had lately embarked in an enterprise requiring money to advance it, became aware of the fact that a well-known citizen of wealth and position was in the house at the time of the murder; and that from time to time he levied blackmail upon him to the amount of thirty thousand dollars.

June 23, the first trip from New York to Albany by a vessel using anthracite coal was made by the *Novelty*, in twelve hours. She bore a considerable company of gentlemen interested in the experiment, among them the managers of the Delaware & Hudson Company, the Collector of the Port, and Dr. Eliphalet Nott, whose invention it was that was in course of trial and proved completely successful.

September 14, Aaron Burr died. It was charged and entertained that, prior to his challenge to Alexander Hamilton, he daily practised with a pistol at his residence in the Richmond Hill house.

December 9, Miss Ellen Tree made her first appearance at the Park Theatre as *Rosalind* in "As You Like It," achieving a prodigious success, well deserved by this charming actress. She was a greater favorite than any woman ever seen on the Park stage, save Fanny Kemble. She remained for two years in this country; in 1842 she married Charles Kean, and in 1845 they were both here.

Fernando Wood left the employ of Mr. Secor, then Fras. Secor & Co., and opened a three-cent liquor store at the corner of Rector and Washington streets. The Secors, Peter Seeley (a stevedore), and some other employers of laborers, were in the habit of paying their men off in Wood's store, and in connection with this it is not amiss to note that the custom of employers on the river fronts paying their men in a grocery store was of general

practice. It was charged against Wood, and never responded to, that when a man presented himself to receive his wages, he was surprised at being told that there was such and such an account charged to him for drinks. There was no appeal. It was a standing charge of the enemies of Wood, and he had many, that on one occasion Joseph Bunce, a man who had suffered by this one-sided way of keeping accounts, resolutely refrained from drink at Wood's bar for the entire week. When pay-night came and he presented himself, he was given the amount of his wages less seventy-five cents, deducted for drinks which were charged to him. There were many other and exceptionally severe charges made against Wood, but being ignorant as to their authenticity, I omit reference to them here.

Thomas E. Davis purchased vacant lots in St. Mark's Place and vicinity, essaying to make it a fashionable quarter of the city, and at one time it appeared that he had succeeded. He then originated and with the aid of I. L. and S. Josephs, Geo. Griffin, and others, formed an association for the purchase and improvement of the northeast end of Staten Island, at the junction of the Bay and the Kills, obtained a loan of four hundred and seventy thousand dollars from a bank, and termed the locality New Brighton. A large hotel and houses were built, but the association came to grief, and the property was sold out under a decree of foreclosure, and bought in by Mr. Davis for two hundred thousand dollars.

Two notables of this period merit mention, the "gingerbread man" and the "limekiln man," both famous in New York. The former was an erratic of a very pronounced type, or a mild lunatic; clerically, though shabbily dressed; who promenaded Broadway at a rapid gait, and apparently took his entire nourishment at a street pump, eating gingerbread and washing it down with water from the spout of the pump. He kept his supply of the

bread in a coat pocket. The latter was another mental derelict of the human species, evidently a foreigner, who received his *sobriquet* from the circumstance of his usually sleeping in or upon a limekiln in East Fourteenth Street, and although his raiment and mien indicated extreme poverty, he was not known ever to have solicited alms. One morning his dead body was discovered on a limekiln.

Such was the enterprise of New York that it was observed this year, on the anniversary of the great fire of 1835, that the whole burned district had been rebuilt in handsomer style than before.

Chas. H. Marshall bought of Goodhue & Co. their interest in the Black Ball Line, and added new vessels of increased tonnage. Soon after, the Swallow Tail Line of Thaddeus Phelps & Co., and the Dramatic Line of E. K. Collins & Co., were organized and entered for the Liverpool trade.

In this year the New York Society Library sold its building in Nassau, between Cedar and Liberty streets, and removed temporarily to Chambers Street.

The house, corner of Church and Leonard streets, was leased to Thomas Flynn, an English comedian, who for ten years had been engaged here as actor or manager. He opened the house (thereafter known as the National Theatre) for a fall season, with William Mitchell, who now first appeared in New York, afterward to become famous, especially at his own Olympic Theatre, where the excellence of his burlesques and travesties brought him for a considerable time to the height of prosperity. Later, Mitchell failed somewhat, and he retired in 1850. He died a few years after this date, in poverty, though he had made much money. In October "La Bayadere" was produced under Flynn's management with Mme. Celeste, and had immense success.

Many events of interest in the theatrical world occurred

during this autumn, not least of which was Charlotte Cushman's first appearance in New York at the "Bowery" Theatre, as *Lady Macbeth*. Miss Cushman had proposed to be a public singer. She appeared first in concert, at the age of fifteen. Happening to sing with the Woods, they suggested that she should attempt the lyric stage, but after studying and essaying, her voice failed, and she abandoned the attempt.

September 26, the "Bowery" Theatre was burned again; the fire arising, as was supposed, from burning wadding discharged among the scenery in progress of the play, "Lafitte, the Pirate of the Gulf," then just beginning a promising run. It was said that Hamblin, the manager, lost sixty thousand dollars by this fire.

Philip Hone recites that in this year he sold his house, 235 Broadway, lot 37×120 feet (next to the corner of Park Place), for sixty thousand dollars, having bought it fifteen years before (1821) for twenty-five thousand dollars. This is now given as an index to the variation of prices in real estate on Broadway. The house was a three-story high stoop brick, with slant roof and dormer windows front and rear; a perfect type of a first-class house of the period, internally arranged as follows: Vault under sidewalk for fuel and coal storage; basement floor, front room, closets and kitchen without cellar; first floor, hall store, front and back parlors with closets and sliding doors between, stairway thrown well back and lighted by a rear window, doors of mahogany; second floor, essentially the counterpart of the first, doors of white pine; third floor, front, middle, and rear bedrooms, with one in hall; garret, two or three servants' rooms and a storeroom. A cistern in the yard to receive rain water from the roof, which was drawn out by a bucket and pole. Total absence of water-closets, bathroom, a vestibule door, and furnaces. In 1819 a relation of mine was offered this house for thirty thousand dol-

lars; it was then occupied by Jotham Smith, not Jonathan, as given by Hone.

Some time previous to this a Mr. Benjamin Brandreth advertised very extensively his "Brandreth's Pills," and this was the first exhibition or demonstration of a kind of advertising that has become general. It was so novel to the public that he and his nostrum became notorious. "Brandreth's Pills" became a byword. Later a man was charged with selling these pills under a counterfeit label, and the interest involved was held of such importance that Charles O'Connor and Major-general Sandford were employed to plead for an injunction. In support of the alleged value of the proprietary right of these pills, it was claimed that they were effective in fully fifty diseases.

1837, Orange (now Baxter) Street was extended from Grand to Broome Street. Fourth Avenue was widened forty feet to accommodate the tunnel for the Harlem Railroad, and to give air openings to it in the middle of the avenue.

There was at this period one Chief of Police, Jacob Hays, at a salary of five hundred dollars per annum, with twenty officers. Ogden Hoffman, when District Attorney, related that on occasion of an extensive robbery of money, Mr. Hays, who justly enjoyed the reputation of keen observation and exceptional shrewdness, while engaged in seeking the perpetrators, entered the reading-room of the Northern Hotel, corner of Washington Street and Battery Place, and noticed among the occupants one who was reading a newspaper, but from the moment Hays entered, he did not remove his eyes from one part of it; from which Hays inferred that the man knew him, and was too much embarrassed at his presence to read. Whereupon he arrested him, and he proved to be the person sought for.

January 2. The "Bowery" Theatre, rebuilt upon a

lease of the ground from Hamblin, was opened shortly after this. "Sandie" Welsh, of the "Washington Lunch" (before mentioned), appeared here for the first and last time, it was said, on a wager, with an oration in Low Dutch (the vernacular of Northern New Jersey), in the character of the Flying Dutchman.

The year opened with unfavorable business conditions, money being very scarce and tight. High prices for the necessities of life prevailed; flour was \$12 to \$15 per barrel, and wheat imported from abroad \$2.25 per bushel. What the prices of meats were I do not now recollect; but I well remember that upon inquiring the price of a head of cabbage, I was told two and six pence (31.25 cents). A public meeting was held to devise some remedy for the distressful cost of living, but the effect of natural laws remained unchanged by this device. On February 10, a meeting of workmen and laborers out of



JACOB HARSEN'S HOUSE, TENTH AVENUE AND SEVENTIETH STREET

work convened in the City Hall Park, and as it was asserted that provision-dealers were holding back supplies for higher prices, and it was publicly known that Eli Hart & Co., 175 Washington Street, had in their possession large quantities of both wheat and flour, the fact was so deprecatingly referred to by the speakers that the passions of the crowd became aroused, and at the close of the meeting it proceeded to the store of the Messrs. Hart, broke open the doors, which had been closed, and threw wheat and rolled flour out of the doors and windows. Later in the day the crowd was dispersed by the police. After this, they proceeded to the store of S. H. Herrick & Co., 5 Coenties Slip, where they in like manner broke in and commenced destruction, with a view to produce abundance, but were driven out by the police. This was known as the Flour Riot.

March 15, Daniel Webster made what might be called a State visit to New York. Throngs greeted his arrival at the Battery and accompanied him to his hotel. A great meeting gathered to hear his oration at Niblo's Saloon in the evening, and Mr. Webster held a reception the next day in the Governor's room in the City Hall.

A famous dinner was given on March 30, at the City Hotel, by booksellers to authors and other persons of fame.

In this year August Belmont arrived here as the agent of the Messrs. Rothschilds and established a banking house here ; he filling the vacancy consequent upon the failure of the Messrs. L. and S. Josepfs.

Meantime the business outlook was growing more and more dark. Failures were multiplying. On March 28, a meeting of merchants invoked the support of the United States Bank of Philadelphia. On April 26, a similar meeting, "to devise suitable measures of relief," was held at Masonic Hall, which appointed a committee to visit Washington and secure action by the Government. The

panic and consequent financial distress that prevailed bore upon our savings banks, as evidenced in the circumstance that the Greenwich and Bowery banks were so drawn upon that they were compelled to dispose of some of their invested securities at a loss, and in addition to appeal to the Bank for Savings (later the Bleecker Street) for assistance, which in its own defence it was compelled to give, to protect itself from a run in the event of the others closing their doors. Runs on the savings banks began; failures increased beyond count; on May 8, the Dry Dock Bank, and on the 10th all the New York banks, suspended specie payments. At this time these banks numbered twenty-three, having twenty millions of capital. The suspension, in which all the banks of the country followed, was a relief from the long-continued stringency and strain of affairs. Under the new conditions, however, great shrinkage in the value of New York real estate had occurred; sales of "speculative" lots being made in April at scarce more than one-fifth of their cost in the preceding September.

This very general and prolonged depression in finance, commerce, manufactures, and trade, originated as far back as 1832 in the closing of the United States Bank in Philadelphia and its branches throughout the Union, and the transfer of the Government deposits to State banks, while the increase and extension of our population required additional banks as well as the filling of the voids caused by the withdrawal of the United States Bank and its branches. In consequence of this, a great number of small banks with smaller capital were chartered, and even in remote places; which, from the insufficiency of their capital and the amount of notes they put in circulation at points distant from their location, were termed and known as "wild cats." Such a system of finance involved the inevitable consequence, and in the interval from 1832 to this year the result of the system was

developed, and a general crash in trade, credit, securities, real estate, and manufactures ensued.

June 12, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, who had spent some time in New York, sailed for Europe in consequence of the (ultimately fatal) illness of his mother.

July 31, Dominick Lynch died abroad, a man much given to the arts and refinements of life, and long a general favorite in New York society.

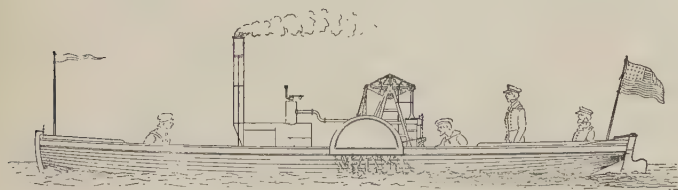
Late in August the Broadway Theatre on the east side of Broadway, near Walker Street, was opened—the building formerly known as the Euterpean Hall, and the Apollo Saloon. The enterprise was soon abandoned.

September 13, another new theatre was added, which was destined ultimately to success, though at first it was unfortunate. This was the well-remembered Olympic, at 444 Broadway, built originally for W. R. Blake and Henry E. Willard, and first opened under their control. This was a “drawing-room” theatre, in the best taste; presenting light and sparkling plays accordingly, with a company which counted the Blakes, G. Barrett, Mrs. Maeder, etc.; yet, with every apparent element of success, the house was “ahead of the times,” and in October the prices were reduced to fifty cents for the boxes and twenty-five cents for the pit. Shortly after this Blake abandoned the enterprise.

September 4, Wallack opened the National Theatre (formerly the Italian Opera House) with “The Rivals,” in which a strong stock company appeared, Wallack playing *Captain Absolute*. Henry Wallack was stage manager. It was noted in the newspapers that, for the first time in New York history, eight theatres were open simultaneously. The consecutive performance of pieces at that time and for many years was rarely attained, the population of the city and the presence of strangers not being equal to the occasion.

James W. Wallack was again at the Park Theatre in

the years 1832 and 1834, and in this year he was manager of the National Theatre at Church and Leonard streets, which was burned in 1839. He appeared at the Park Theatre in 1843-44. In 1852 he assumed the management of Brougham's Lyceum in Broadway (the old Wallack's Theatre) and at this house ended his career as actor. He removed to the "new Wallack's" (now the Star Theatre)



THE FIRST STEAM LAUNCH

DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED AT U. S. NAVY YARD, NEW YORK

Length 35 feet, beam 4.25 feet, and depth 3 feet. Engine 4x12 inches.

Wheels 3.5 feet

Boiler, horizontal fire tubular. Scale 120th part

in the autumn of 1861, and there made his last appearance before the curtain with a speech of thanks at the close of the season of 1862. He died on Christmas Day, 1864.

The election of this year resulted in a Whig triumph in New York, and a great jubilee occurred on November 22. November 29, one of the greatest of political dinners was given at the Astor House to John Bell of Tennessee, at which Daniel Webster made a speech, beginning at two in the morning.

The first steam-launch was designed by and constructed under the direction of the writer in this year, at the New York Navy Yard, and named the *Sweetheart*. On her trial trip and several succeeding, she was hailed and saluted by the bells of passing steamboats, and by cheers from people who rushed to the ends of the piers to witness the novel sight. She attained a speed at the rate

of 8.5 miles per hour. The engine was subsequently transferred to the first U. S. Naval School, then at Philadelphia.

November 27, a meeting of delegates from banks of several States, called to discuss the question of bank resumption, began its sessions. It was largely attended, and on November 30 resolved to resume on July 1, 1838, or earlier. December 2, the convention adjourned to April, 1838; then to take further and decisive action.

The nucleus of the now immense railroad and steamboat and steamer expresses appeared in the enterprise of William F. Harnden, who under the suggestion, assistance, and auspices of James W. Hale, this year commenced the personal bearing of parcels and executing commissions between this city and Boston, and from this modest enterprise arose the Harnden Express; to be followed by the American, Adams, United States, etc.

It was in this year that Consul Gliddon came here from Egypt, wearing a moustache, when the practice was first looked upon with any favor, and then only by a few. A gentleman from whom Mr. Gliddon procured some machinery for the Pacha of Egypt remarked to me, "What a fine fellow he is! but what a pity he should wear a moustache!"

E. E. Morgan & Son's Line to Liverpool, which they had established about 1823, was increased to twelve ships, one of which, the *Philadelphia*, built by Christian Bergh in 1832, was described by the *Commercial Advertiser* as having a piano on board and a physician.

It was about this period that the German families had so increased in number that their custom of dressing a "Christmas Tree" was observed. So novel was the exhibition that it evoked much comment. I have a vivid remembrance of my going over to Brooklyn of a very stormy and wet night to witness the novelty.

The New York Historical Society was this year removed from Remsen's Building, in Broadway, to the Stuyvesant Institute.

From this time the Park Theatre began to lose its supremacy, and never regained it. The younger public fancied new scenes and methods, and indeed those who now remember that time may be pardoned for thinking that Wallack had then the best stock company ever gathered in this city.

September 11. The elder Vanderhoff appeared for the first time under Wallack's management, and continued playing tragedy against Forrest at the Park. Vanderhoff was counted second only to Macready, in the dignified, grand, heroic style of acting; he retired from the stage in 1859 and died in 1861.

Charlotte Cushman in the fall of this year was leading lady at the Park. Miss Cushman's later history, and the well-won admiration and respect she ever enjoyed, need not be recounted here.

Mme. Caradori Allan appeared at the Park during this season in English opera, or opera in English. Her first appearance was as *Rosina* and was a great triumph.

In October the Fourth Avenue railway tunnel above Thirty-second Street was opened to travel. Subsequently the line was extended down the Bowery, from Prince Street to its present terminus at City Hall Park.

Bennett, in the *Herald*, in referring to Coney Island, proclaimed it as an objectionable resort, being sandy, clammy, and fishy, and that Bath was a much preferable resort. He also proclaimed Gilbert Davis as the Governor of the Island, and later was in the habit of referring to Governor Seward as his "small potato highness," and Horace Greeley as "a galvanized squash." With many of his readers the designation of

Seward and Greeley were held to be temerity, with others independence.

In October, 1833, James P. Allaire had constructed in Water Street, a short distance east of Jackson Street (site now included in the Corlears Park), by Thompson Price, a builder, a four-story house designed for many tenants. It was the first house constructed proper or exclusively for tenants in this city. It is what is now termed a "single-decker," that is, but one suite of rooms on a floor.

Houses then occupied by two or more families were those of the ordinary construction.

As the vote of this State was held by the Whigs to be essential to the success of Mr. Harrison, every opportunity that offered to attack Mr. Van Buren, and even some that did not, was availed of or published to discredit him and his administration with the people, as evidenced in the following:

A representative in Congress from Pennsylvania, after dining with the President (Van Buren), attacked him and the administration for its extravagance as evidenced in the display of gold spoons (silver gilt) he had seen at the President's table. So widely spread was the charge that it proved a very damaging element in the approaching election, and the member was universally known as "gold spoon Ogle." The result of this was far in excess of what those who first spread the recital and charges anticipated, and when one reflects upon the wonderment of the people of the extreme border States and the comparison they daily drew between their own iron or pewter spoons and gold, coupled with the ceaseless repetition by the political papers of charges of uniform extravagance which they were taxed to meet, one should not be surprised on being informed that the cry of "gold spoons" was a controlling element in the result of the canvass.

The opposition to President Van Buren was manifested in a like manner as it had been to President Jackson in the issue of tokens representing the "Treasury of the United States" being maintained on the back of a tortoise, representing the "Fiscal Agent," and on the obverse, a jackass and the legend, "I follow in the steps of my Illustrious Predecessor" (see page 334).

The manner of lighting dwellings of all kinds, public halls, and theatres, previous to about 1832, was so different and attended with so many difficulties and inconveniences, compared with the facilities we now avail ourselves of, that it is worthy of record. Thus: the instruments of illumination were oil lamps and spermaceti or tallow candles. The lamps required attention to the trimming of their wicks and to guard them from smoking, and the candles required repeated snuffing and would occasionally run or drip, as it was termed, frequently involving damage thereby, as in ballrooms, dancing parties in dwellings, etc.; as such places were illuminated by chandeliers with a great number of candles therein, some one or more of which would drip, and fortunate were the parties who did not receive drops of spermaceti upon their dresses. I have a very vivid recollection of this.

In theatres, when it was required to darken the stage, the footlights were lowered below it, and when, as in the representation of "The Phantom Ship," the greatest practicable obscurity of illumination was required, opaque hemispheres were lowered over the chandeliers pendent from the sides of the upper boxes, and then closed.

The Macomb's dam was authorized by an Act of the Legislature in 1813 for a term of forty years, and completed in 1816 (see pp. 78-79-115) and although it was provided in the act that the dam should be so constructed as to admit of the passage of boats and vessels,

yet it was not, and a suit was instituted by a Mr. Renwick to have the obstructions to a free passage removed, and a dam constructed to admit of the passage of vessels with masts. His suit was successful, and the defendant removed one abutment and the dam between three others.



CHAPTER XVII

1838-1839-1840.—AARON CLARK, 1838 AND 1839, AND
ISAAC L. VARIAN, 1839 AND 1840, MAYORS

1838. EARLY in January it was learned that the *Pennsylvania* packet-ship had made a passage hence to Liverpool in fifteen days.

April 22, the steamer *Sirius*, Captain Roberts, R. N., arrived from Liverpool, being the second steamer to cross the ocean ; the following day the *Great Western*, Captain Hosken, Lieutenant R. N., arrived, having made the passage in 12 days and 18 hours. Of course these arrivals caused great excitement here ; especially was the *Great Western* a centre of interest from her proportions, then termed “ stupendous ” ; being 234 feet in length, and 1604 tons registry, with engines of 450 horse-power. On April 27, the city authorities, with a large company of gentlemen, visited the vessel in a procession of barges under command of Captain Stringham, U. S. N., and were shown the wonders on board and refreshed by a collation, at which I was present. The departure of the *Great Western*, on May 7, was the occasion of a great popular demonstration on land and water.

February 18, the Bowery Theatre was burned for the third time. The fire, which broke out before day, was said to have been set alight in the carpenter’s shop in the third story of the building.

In this year the building known as the Tombs, in Centre Street, was erected ; the stone taken from the old Jail, with granite from Maine.

The tonnage of vessels constructed at the seven ship-yards in the previous year amounted to 11,789 tons.

The House of Refuge, which stood upon ground now part of Madison Square (see page 166), was destroyed by fire; and soon after the necessary new structure was finished and walled in, on the block of ground bounded by First Avenue, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets, and the river.

Wm. L. Rushton, who opened a drugstore at 81 William Street in 1828, associated with him in 1830 Wm. L. Aspinwall. They also opened a store at 110 Broadway, and in this year they embarked deeply in the *morus multi-caulis* enterprise, in which they realized a large profit, but continuing their connection with it, suffered deeply when it collapsed, alike to the South Sea Bubble and the Tulip craze, which, both in inception, progress, and result it much resembled. Mr. Hegeman, the druggist, was a *protégé* of theirs.

About this year there was published in an evening newspaper, in the list of deaths, that of Professor James Renwick, LL.D., who bore his painful illness with "more than Christian fortitude," and on the following morning the professor was surprised and amused at the reading of his own obituary and of his "exceptional fortitude"; but some of his friends, in arriving at his home to attend his funeral, were the more surprised at his reception of them.

The resumption of specie payments had now been accomplished. An adjourned meeting of bank representatives, convened on April 11 in New York, had resolved to resume on January 1, 1839, but the New York banks resumed on May 10 of this year, and all the others were compelled by public opinion to follow this example July 1. The Bank of Commerce was founded this year.

The two works of Jas. Fenimore Cooper, at this time lately published, "Homeward Bound" and "Home as Found," were the subject of reprobation in the press and privately, the author being supposed to show an unpatriotic temper in them. Present-day readers of these

books will understand the ground of this supposition, but they will perhaps conclude that a travelled American might write them without treason against his country.

Art Street (now Stuyvesant) was widened in this year.

Richard Riker, residing in Fulton Street between Broadway and Nassau Street, had filled the office of Recorder of the City and County for periods since 1812, aggregating twenty years. He was universally respected as a clear-headed and upright judge. When the question of introducing water into the city was discussed, he dissented from the general opinion as to the necessity of such action, and cited in support of the goodness and sufficiency of the Manhattan water, then in use in some streets, that he drank a tumbler of it every morning. For this he was criticised, caricatured, and lampooned for many years after.

In sentencing culprits he was apt to remark, they "must suffer some," and the frequent repetition of this was taken up by the people and it became a byword. Some time previous to this, in consequence of a contro-



RIKER HOUSE, SEVENTY-FOURTH STREET, BETWEEN AVENUES A AND B

versy arising from a duel that had occurred between De Witt Clinton and John Swartwout, Robert Swartwout challenged Riker, and they fought on the duelling-ground where Hamilton fell soon after. Riker was wounded.

May. In this month "La Petite Augusta" (Williams) first appeared at the age of twelve in "La Bayadere." This was an astonishing child, the most remarkable of juvenile dancers, who was compared on even terms with her full-grown sisters.

February 19, Mary C. Taylor first appeared in a named part at the "Bowery." In 1840 she was at the Olympic, where she remained (chiefly) for nine years. She was the *Lize* of "A Glance at New York," and became one of the greatest favorites ever seen on our stage; in fact, "our Mary," as she was called, was a popular idol, and well deserved her favor for the excellence she showed in her saucy parts, and the virtue of her private character, which made her thoroughly respected. Miss Taylor married and retired from the stage in 1852; she died in 1866.

September 17, Charles Matthews (the younger) and Mme. Vestris (Mrs. Matthews) first appeared at the Park Theatre. Much was expected of them, and our public experienced a proportionate disappointment. Neither were the artists pleased with the outcome of their adventure, and they returned to England much dissatisfied.

In November a very heavy deficiency was discovered in the accounts of Samuel Swartwout, the late collector of the port, who had engaged the public money in speculations during the "flush times." So widespread was the indignation at the treachery of Swartwout, that to steal, rob, or default, was for many years after expressed as "Swartwouting."

December. The city was surprised in reading of the sudden departure for Liverpool of Wm. M. Price, the United States District Attorney. He had been a zealous

and effective partisan of the administration of General Jackson, and an ardent supporter of Mr. Van Buren. His remark upon rising to address a meeting in Tammany Hall, during the first canvass for mayoralty, was for a long period referred to, and frequently quoted. The Whigs, elated by their success in the previous campaign, were confident, and the Democrats were correspondingly discouraged. It was a dark, stormy night, the rain falling in torrents; and when Price, who was seated on the platform, arose, and his greeting subsided, he opened with: "My friends, we have seen a darker night than this." The effect was electrical; it was received as a presage of victory; darker nights had been seen, the worst had passed, and Mr. Lawrence was elected.

1839. The arsenal in Madison Square was destroyed by fire.

The Society for Founding an Institution for the Blind, which Dr. Samuel Akerly had essayed to organize, from 1831, completed the buildings on Ninth Avenue, between Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth streets.

Ice-boxes or refrigerators were for the first time introduced in the markets.

February 4, Wm. E. Burton first appeared in New York at the National Theatre. He was destined to have an important share in the dramatic affairs of the city.

At this time plays founded on the works of Dickens were coming in favor, before the dramatizations of Scott and Cooper had well begun to disappear. February 7, a stage version of "Oliver Twist" was produced at the Park, in which Charlotte Cushman offered her remarkable delineation of *Nancy*.

April 30, occurred the semi-centennial celebration of Washington's inauguration; the exercises under the care of the New York Historical Society. There was an ode by Wm. C. Bryant, and ex-President John Quincy Adams

delivered an oration. The literary exercises were followed by a great dinner at the City Hotel.

In May arrived at this port from England, under canvas, a small iron steamer, the *Robert F. Stockton*, of thirty tons burthen. The *Great Western* completed on June 1 the shortest western passage then known, thirteen days. July 20, the *British Queen* arrived on her first voyage. She was then the largest steamer ever built; length over all, 275 feet; 2016 tons; 500 horse-power.

In July, President Van Buren visited New York and was received with a great military parade, which escorted him to Castle Garden, where he heard and replied to an address.

Trinity Church was demolished in this year, to make way for the present structure.

The New York and Harlem Railroad Company completed its double track from Harlem to the City Hall.

The entertainments of the Common Council in the "tea room" were very much enlarged from those of earlier days both in direction and scope, and early shad, strawberries and cream, and like delicacies could be found there in advance of their appearance at the tables of private citizens; on this point I write from experience. In more recent times, as from 1840, the *status* or standard of the representatives of the people deteriorated both in dignity of person and integrity of character, and the injudicious admission of "friends," supporters, contractors, lobbyists, etc., induced not only a laxity of decorum, but the introduction of wines, liquors, and segars, and very soon the weekly meetings in the "tea room" partook so much of the character of orgies that public opinion became aroused, and upon the election of Mr. Harper, he proceeded forthwith to suppress them, and succeeded not only in saving such an expense to the city, but in arresting a practice which occasionally partook more of the character of a debauch than an assemblage

of representatives of the people, to whom their civic rights were confided.

May 6, the Bowery Theatre, rebuilt by Hamblin, was opened. Mrs. Shaw then appeared first at this house, where she continued long to be a favorite. June 13, John Gilbert was first seen in New York here, as *Sir Edward Mortimer*.

May 21, the dancers M. and Mme. Paul Taglioni were brought out at the Park. The former was a brother to the famous *danseuse* Marie Taglioni. His wife was esteemed inferior to none but Elssler. Nevertheless, they did not attract great houses.

May 30. A portion of the estate of the late Henry Eckford was sold at auction this day. Mr. Eckford purchased the property, consisting of a large country house, stables, shed, etc., fronting on Seventh and Eighth avenues, Twenty-first to Twenty-fourth streets, in November, 1824, from Clement C. Moore, for sixteen thousand dollars, 22.6 acres. At that time the surface of the ground was low and a great portion of it wet, so much so that the location as a residence was unhealthy. So wild was this purchase considered that friends of Eckford would jocosely ask him about his cow pasture, and if he intended to raise frogs, etc.

It was here that his daughter died, and his son John, who had just returned from travel abroad, lost his life in essaying to save her. She was ill with fever, and at night a spark from the fireplace before which she was reclining ignited her clothing; she rushed into her brother's room and he burned his hands, in endeavoring to quench the flames, to the extent that he died from *tetanus*.

This sale gave an average of a little in excess of fifty dollars per city lot.

Henry Clay visited the city in August, being escorted down Broadway from the steamboat landing at Hammond Street to the City Hall Park, where he was wel-

comed, and delivered an answering speech. On the next day he held a reception in the Governor's room of the City Hall. Mr. Clay was at this time a favorite candidate for the pending nomination of the Whigs for the Presidency, which was given by the Harrisburg Convention, in December, to General William Henry Harrison.

August. In the latter part of this month it was reported by the captain of an arriving vessel that a long, low, well-manned, suspicious schooner was seen by him off the New Jersey coast, and as the report in detail and authority warranted action on the part of the commandant of the naval station here, Commodore Ridgely ordered the steam frigate *Fulton*, Captain M. C. Perry, forthwith to proceed to sea in search of the reported craft.

The *Fulton*, after running down the New Jersey coast as far as Shark River, returned and anchored off the Hook, awaiting daylight, and when it appeared, she went seaward in a southeast course, and returned late in the evening to the Navy Yard.

This manner of proceeding on the part of Captain Perry was wholly at variance with the views of his officers (among whom I was one), who argued that if the vessel was of the character supposed, her captain would avoid the vicinity of Sandy Hook as being too near the presence of a revenue cutter or a naval cruiser; but would proceed to the south coast of Long Island to intercept an European vessel.

A few days after (the 31st) Lieutenant Gedney, in command of a United States Coast Survey schooner in Long Island Sound, captured the unresisting vessel near Montauk Point, where she had been run in to procure water. Upon investigation it appeared that her name was the *Amistead*, and that she had left Havana for a neighboring port with a number of slaves who had been

just landed there, and that the slaves rose upon the crew, murdered some, and took possession of the vessel, sparing the two passengers, one of whom had been in command of a vessel and could navigate. He was ordered to take the schooner to Africa, but he deceived them and directed her here.

Upon the authorities in Connecticut taking possession of the vessel, Lieutenant Gedney having delivered her there, a body of fanatics, not satisfied with the emancipation of the slaves, conspired to arrest the two passengers who had purchased the slaves and succeeded in throwing them into prison, the result of which, added to what was to be done with the freed negroes, the vessel, etc., engendered a complication of questions of rights and duties, that seriously involved the amicable relations of the United States and Spain.

In illustration of the difference in the frequency and convenience of the method of travel compared with that of a later day: I in 1835 was required to visit Rahway, N. J., and taking the most expeditious route, I left in a steamboat from the foot of Battery Place, and after reaching Elizabethtown (now Elizabeth) I took stage to Rahway, and on my return, as the steamboat had returned to New York, I was compelled to take a private conveyance to Newark and from there I reached the city by stage.

September 7, Charles Kean appeared at the National as *Hamlet*, after a long absence. On the afternoon of the 23d, while the stage was set for his *Richard*, the house was burned. The fire involved the adjoining French Episcopal Church (du Saint Esprit), the African Methodist Church opposite, and a Dutch Reformed Church in Franklin, near Church Street. The French Church, built in 1822, was a handsome marble structure. Wallack transferred his company to Niblo's, beginning there on October 1, when Vandenhoff, as *Hamlet*, appeared for the first time since his return from Europe.

Unfavorable business conditions prevailing in this year were heightened in October by the suspension of the Bank of the United States in Philadelphia, and of all the Philadelphia banks on the succeeding day.

November 27, died Samuel Ward, head of the great banking-house of Prime, Ward, King & Co. Mr. Ward's death, at the early age of fifty-five, was deeply felt in business and social life.

September 11, the New Chatham Theatre, built for Flynn & Willard on the south-east side of Chatham Street between James and Roosevelt streets, was opened.

October 5, fire, aided by a fresh wind, destroyed the block between Pearl and Water streets south of Fulton, besides fourteen buildings in Front Street, some in Water Street below Burling Slip, and even some in Fletcher Street.

In December the daguerreotype was first introduced in New York, exciting great interest and wonder.

December 14, died Robert Lenox, of Scotch parentage and birth, a successful merchant and a shrewd investor in land in the upper portion of the city. In the War of the Revolution his uncle* was the keeper of the dreaded prison-ship at the Wallabout, Brooklyn, and Robert was an individual assistant to his father, enjoying the highly remunerative position of supplying the prisoners with such articles as were not included in their meagre and ill-served rations.

Thaddeus Phelps, who lived at 109 Liberty Street, was connected with Fish & Grinnell in their line of Liverpool packets, and was well known as a citizen and a merchant. He usually expressed his views very decidedly and with emphasis. On one occasion of his riding in an omnibus on Broadway, an entering passenger trod on his foot, whereupon he used an expression not to be found in Lord Chesterfield's letters; and another well-known citizen, who was seated opposite to him, remarked,

* David Sprout.

"Tush, tush, don't swear, friend Phelps;" to which the latter replied, "Never mind that; you pray and I swear, but neither of us means anything."

St. George's Society of New York, which was organized in 1786, was incorporated in this year. It assists needy English residents of this city or vicinity. Special attention given to destitute and helpless women and children.

The old or Boston Post Road from the corner of Twenty-third Street and Broadway to Harlem Bridge was closed in this year.

Captain John Ericsson arrived here, and in 1842 he designed the steam machinery and propeller for the United States steamer *Princeton*, which was being constructed at the Navy Yard at Philadelphia, under the general direction of Captain R. F. Stockton, United States Navy.

December 9, Mitchell leased the Olympic, and opened it as a low-priced house for amusing entertainments. The house became the fashion, and a steady prosperity followed it for ten years. The bills for that time compose a marvel of variety. In April of the next year Mitchell brought out his "La Mosquito," a most amusing travesty of Fanny Elssler's "Tarantula," and an almost equally funny burlesque of her "Cracovienne"; these were very famous for a time.

December, 1839. New Chatham Theatre was reconstructed and opened as Purdy's National Theatre.

1840. The tunnel of the New York & Harlem Railroad at Yorkville was completed in this year.

Business was greatly depressed during the earlier portion of the year, and the growing political excitement in the famous "Singing Campaign" of "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too" prevented much revival. In March, the house and lot No. 11 Broadway—the lot thirty-nine feet front, by twenty-seven feet rear on Greenwich Street, and nearly two hundred feet deep—was sold by auction for only fifteen thousand dollars. Nevertheless, as will

be seen, the life of the town went on with much of its usual enjoyment.

January. Captain Waite of the packet ship *England*, arrived here by the Northern route from Liverpool, by which he claimed to have shortened his passage from ten to fifteen days, and he showed his previous passages and his last to be as follows: 1837, thirty-five days; 1838, thirty-nine days, and the last, twenty-six.

January 13, the steamboat *Lexington* on Long Island Sound, hence to New London, at half-past seven in the evening took fire from sparks from the furnaces of her boiler, projected by the fan blower upon cotton bales stowed in a gangway. She burned and sank at three in the morning, and out of one hundred and fifty passengers and a crew of twenty-five, but four were saved. She carried also sixty thousand dollars in specie.

The indignation of the public in consequence of the neglectful manner in which the cotton was stowed, the insufficiency of life-saving instruments, and the great loss of life, was increased by the publication of the fact that a schooner commanded by Captain Terrell was within a few miles of the disaster, and in no wise essayed to approach and aid, although the wind was blowing so fresh that he could have readily arrived at the scene of the disaster in time to be of service.

January 27, the public stores and a dozen others in Front and South streets, near Dover, were burned, the loss on the public stores alone amounting to a million and a half.

January 30, died Stephen Price, who for many years was a joint lessee of the Park Theatre, first in 1807 with Thomas Cooper, the tragedian, and late with Edmund Simpson. Price and Cooper built and resided in the two elegant houses corner of Broadway and Leonard Street, afterward occupied as the Carlton House; then taken down and replaced by the stores of E. S. Jaffray & Co.

Price at one time was lessee of the Drury Lane Theatre in London. The association was Simpson & Price, the former being manager of the Park Theatre here, and the latter engaging actors and performers abroad. William M. Price, referred to on page 189, was a brilliant criminal lawyer, and subsequently district attorney here under General Jackson. He had a brother Benjamin, who one evening, in company with his wife at the theatre, took offence at the conduct of a British officer seated in an adjoining box; whereupon he entered the box where the officer was seated and wrung his nose, and upon the officer's declaring that he did not intend to offend the lady, Price in effect replied that he meant no offence either, and thus the matter rested for a while; but the absurdity of the officer's action becoming known at Montreal, where he was stationed, he was informed by his mess that he must challenge Price or suffer being put in Coventry. He then commenced the practice of pistol-shooting, and soon after returned here, challenged Price, and shot him through the head at the first fire. He then took a boat and boarded a vessel leaving for Europe.

Some years after this, the captain who had been active in causing the return of the officer to challenge Price visited here, and Stephen Price learning of it, called and addressed him: "I have come to insult you. Is it necessary for me to knock you down?" "Not at all," was the reply. They and their seconds left the Navy Yard in company in one boat, proceeded to Bedlow's Island, and Price killed the captain at the first fire.

Later Price, taking offence at the attention of a lieutenant in the Navy to his wife, challenged him; they met at Weehawken, and Price was wounded in the leg. This lieutenant was the son of a gentleman who had been a well-known soap manufacturer. Cooper, the former partner of Price, had married the sister of one of the brightest women of the day, who from that connection

with Price was inimically disposed to the lieutenant, and when he, upon an occasion when she was present, was referring to his late cruise in the Mediterranean, and the pleasure he took in a land excursion there, she remarked, "You must have felt quite at home in *Greece*."

This same lady, in company one evening when a gentleman whose father had been a saddler gave a recital of the misdeeds of an actor, and erroneously charged them to her brother-in-law Cooper, remarked, "You have put the saddle on the wrong horse." I knew her intimately, and enjoyed her friendship.

January 31, a party of roughs on the East Side entered private houses and a German restaurant, 101 Elizabeth Street, when they broke tables, etc., and were fired upon by the keeper and his friends; killing one and wounding four others; the excitement consequent upon which led to a repetition of rioting for several subsequent nights.

February 24, Mr. and Mrs. Brevoort, at their house on Fifth Avenue, entertained their friends and some acquaintances at a fancy ball; it was the social event of the period, had been for a long while in preparation, and was pronounced a great success. A reporter of the *Herald* (Attree), on the application of the editor, was permitted to be present, appearing in costume.

This spring the first registry law for the City of New York came into force. The property qualification for voters was abolished under it, and with enlarged suffrage the quality of candidates for public office suffered a decline. Up to this period the men who took an active and prominent part in politics were of a very different class from those who came later. The Democrats having a place of meeting, Tammany Hall, and a chartered organization meeting monthly, their principal men were brought more into public notice than their opponents. Their party was supported by many well-known

citizens, as Saul Alley, Stephen Allen, Gideon Lee, Walter Bowne, George Douglass, Campbell P. White, Chas. Graham, Cornelius W. Lawrence, Daniel Jackson; while a prominent representative of their opponents was Philip Hone.

Gradually, from this time, the elder men withdrew from active participation, and younger and more ambitious men supplanted them, and finally, in the race for the emoluments of office, consideration of either the avowed principles of the party or the claims of its defenders was set aside.

While the registry law was pending in the Legislature, the Whigs held a meeting (March 27) in Masonic Hall to express their approbation, but members of the adverse party were there and interrupted the proceedings by their opposition. Being once expelled they returned in greater force, and a considerable disturbance ensued.

By this time the "log cabin" and "hard cider" political watchwords were in full cry. Some persons having reproached the Whigs with selecting for Presidential candidate a rude man who lived in a log cabin and drank only hard cider (though in fact General Harrison was of an old Virginian family used to the graces of good breeding), the Whigs had made good use of the averment, turning it to their own uses, and contrasting their candidate's plain living with the alleged luxury of Van Buren in the White House in a manner that wrought greatly upon the popular mind. In June they built a great log cabin in Broadway near Prince Street, which was dedicated to campaign purposes by a great meeting, and cider was provided in barrels; whence the campaign was universally known as the "Log Cabin and Hard Cider Campaign."

May 2, 1840, associated with Thomas McElrath, H. Greeley & Co. issued *The Log Cabin* simultaneously in this city and Albany, twenty thousand copies of which



CONTOIT'S GARDEN, BROADWAY, BETWEEN LEONARD AND
FRANKLIN STREETS

were disposed of in one day; then editions summing eight thousand were printed and the type distributed, reset, and another edition of ten thousand printed, all of which were sold. It was published at 30 Ann Street.

May 3, Fanny Elssler, a famous opera *danseuse*, arrived in the *Great Western*, and appeared at the Park Theatre before an enormous audience on May 14. The grace of her movements was positively fascinating. Her *début* was in *La Cracovienne*; the pit arose *en masse* and cheered her. A gentleman at my side, within two minutes after her appearance, remarked: "I have got my dollar's worth already." Her engagement continued for fifteen nights, and the house was crowded for the

entire period. A plain account of the attention and interest aroused by Elssler, not only in New York but throughout the country, would scarcely be credited at this day. She remained for little more than a year in this country, and upon her return to Germany married and left the stage.

Late in June the Richmond Hill Theatre was reopened, transformed into a spacious saloon with concert stage, a change handsomely effected. The place was now named the Tivoli Gardens. The concerts did not attract the public, and after a short time vaudeville, at reduced prices, replaced them with better success.

In May a daguerreotype portrait was shown to me ; it was one of the very first that had been taken here by the representative or agent of Mr. Daguerre ; it was on a copper plate, silvered and polished, which having been bathed with the required chemical, the reflected rays from the sitter were received upon it. When finished and placed in a position proper to receive the light, some faint lines could be discovered, provided your eyesight was good ; but in consequence of the sitter being necessitated to face a bright light for several minutes, the stress upon the eyes was such that a proper delineation of the features was impracticable. This was the operation in its primitive form, and in view of the successful development of it, it may be truly said, *nihil simul est inventum aut perfectum*.

John C. Stevens had built at Cape's shipyard, Williamsburgh (now Brooklyn, E. D.), the schooner yacht *On-ka-hy-e* from the design of his brother Robert L. Her futtocks were U-shaped, thus forming a deep but wide keel, operating like a long but shallow centre-board ; being in fact an approach to a "fin keel" of the present time (1895). In 1842 she was purchased by the United States Government and employed in the Coast Survey.

In June the first Cunarder arrived at Boston by way of

Halifax. It was supposed that making Boston the terminus would seriously interfere with the passenger business of New York, and Boston itself went wild with joy over the prospect of such rivalry; but as it turned out, some natural law, like that which makes great rivers run by great cities, brought the ships here, after all !

Cunard Line. As the steamers of this line were the first to bear a regular and Government Mail between England and this country, a detail of its early operation



BRITANNIA

is of interest, and worthy of record for future reference and comparison with capacities and speed.

In this year Samuel Cunard of Halifax, associated with Messrs. Burns & McIver of Glasgow, organized the British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., under a contract with the British Government for a bi-monthly mail between Liverpool, Halifax, and Boston, with four steamers, for eighty thousand pounds sterling per annum. The steamers were the *Britannia*, *Acadia*, *Caledonia*, and *Columbia*; the first leaving Liverpool on Friday, the 4th of July, and arriving at Boston in fourteen days and eight hours, to the great delight of the Bostonians and their anticipation of commercial advancement in consequence, she having attained an average speed of eight and one-half knots per hour, with an expenditure of thirty-eight tons of coal per day. Whenever any question arose as to the present or future prospects

of the cities of Boston and New York, we were uniformly met with, "We have a line of Liverpool steamers," which was held to settle the question of commercial superiority.

A great public meeting of the Whigs convened on September 28, in Wall Street, by the Merchants' Exchange, where Daniel Webster delivered an elaborate oration lasting more than two hours and a half. This was a notable event in New York political history, Webster being at or near his very best in this oration, and the mass of his auditory being enormous for the time; it was carefully computed at 15,000 persons, the city's population being but 312,000. At the same hour a Democratic meeting was held in the Park, which also was very largely attended, so that "overflow" gatherings were organized and the crowd was addressed by four orators at once. At the distance of more than half a century, this campaign of 1840 remains distinctly pre-eminent for height and breadth of popular interest. At the New York election on November 4, in one city election district, with a registry of 670,664 votes were polled. Yet even under such circumstances, the total vote of the city amounted only to 43,000.

The general election continued through several days in the different States, which fact, together with the exceeding closeness of the vote in some quarters, delayed news of the final result and intensified the public excitement to a point almost unbearable. Considerable rioting and disorder occurred in New York, and it is almost literally true to say that, so long as the event was in doubt, nothing else was in men's minds; so that for several days business and pleasure were alike suspended, and no subject but the election was seriously mentioned.

The Marquis of Waterford, on a second visit to the country in this year, became notorious for his riotous proceedings at night; his several appearances before

Police Justice Hopson were so frequent, and of such a character were the proceedings, that the public became much interested in them. His lordship's fame in nocturnal riots, in all the cities he visited, was notorious; and strange as it may appear, in all his conflicts with watchmen, he never received an injury but on one occasion, and that in Norway, and then, instead of being the aggressor, he was defending a woman when he was attacked by watchmen and wounded by them with their peculiar instrument of defence and attack, a bill-hook at the end of a pole.

August, Charlotte Cushman made her last appearance, and was much missed after her departure. August 31, Tyrone Power reappeared on his second visit. September 28, Mrs. Wood was heard again (in "*Sonnambula*") after four years' absence. She was greeted with enthusiasm and calls for "Wood," in spite of the untoward experience of that gentleman in former years. Under this encouragement he appeared on October 1, and was well applauded.

September 30, Hackett, who had been known only as a comic actor, appeared as *Lear*.

December 21, John Braham, the English vocalist, who had come here with a great reputation, but with voice old and worn, made his first theatrical appearance at the Park in the "*Siege of Belgrade*." After which the theatre was closed for a brief interval. Within a week it reopened in a new guise, with the stage and pit connected; making a large apartment, in which promenade concerts were given, at twenty-five cents admission.

The Bowery, at this period, had become perhaps the most interesting street in the city, and so it remains, though with characteristics much altered from those of 1840. That date is about the mid-period of its peculiar notoriety as a native product, before the vast incursion of

foreigners had given it its present cosmopolitan distinction. The "Bowery boy" (or b'hoy) and "Bowery gal" were at the height of their development as represented on the theatrical stage, with not overmuch exaggeration, by Chanfrau in the well remembered types of *Mose*, *Sikesy*, and *Lize*. The "Bowery boy" flourished in his own proper time, and departed, never to return. He was the outcome of conditions that will not exist again, being primarily a product of the volunteer fire department system, and appearing in an age when the comparative smallness of the city allowed marked social peculiarities to become prominent, which would be lost amid the mass of people and the whirl of things in which all forms of singularity now appear and pass, with but a moment's notice and comment. "Bowery boys" were not wholly admirable beings, but they had some qualities that were admirable, and were much to be preferred to any later varieties of the *genus* "rough." In their combats they were content with nature's weapons, avoiding murderous implements; they were mostly men of regular occupations and industry, the Boweryism being only their form of amusement in leisure hours; they were comparatively sober, and cultivated certain traits of manliness, especially a respect for women, which was traditional with them; and they were intensely American. Even the more strictly professional "bruisers," or prize-fighters,—“Bill” Harrington, a man of mark in his time, “Tom” Hyer, and John Morrissey, “Bill” Poole, at a somewhat later day, and others of their class,—had points of comparative respectability.

The Bowery remains, and remains an absorbing study; but the Bowery of old remains no more than the Old Bowery Theatre, long since changed to the Thalia, and now become a Jewish theatre, with its front covered by bills of the play in Hebrew. It remains no more like the Bowery of 1840 than that was like the eighteenth-century

country road. Traces of that condition my curious readers may find in the old milestones still remaining, one nearly opposite Rivington Street, another between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets (in Third Avenue); the third appears to have been destroyed, but the fourth is in Third Avenue just above Fifty-seventh Street. These are all on the west side of the way—stout stones, deeply incised with advice to the travellers of the distance “to City Hall, New York.” They are commonly plastered over with handbills, which should be forbidden; and surely every care should be taken to preserve in place, unharmed, these memorials of the past.

For years I passed through this street almost daily, and maintained the habit of visiting it occasionally at night, by way of a novel amusement. It would be enough perhaps to stroll there for an hour or two of an evening; watching the thronging East Side engaged in so many modes of money-getting, and such diverse diversions; wondering what manner of lives they are which these things nurture or destroy, and guessing at the “subtle ways” such people “keep, and pass, and turn again.” An observer might be content thus to study the Bowery by bits on sidewalks or in shops; but it would be unwise for him to omit the theatres, where the population is massed for his leisurely regard. Formerly it was of course the Old Bowery Theatre where the quintessence of East Side character was concentrated. Its conversion, and the growing specialization among audiences, have left no place like in all points to the famous old house; still any Bowery gallery may contain an audience of the same general description as that which filled the upper tier of the Old Bowery on my last visit to it, a generation ago.

It was on a Saturday night, chosen because Saturday is a “gala night” in the vast quarter for which the Bowery is the chief avenue of traffic and pleasure; a night when

wages, being just paid, are to be spent, and the long rest before Monday's work shall begin invites to multiform and deep indulgence. Passing through still and deserted Broadway in the early evening, and then along Canal Street, in company with a friend, we came to the turbulent Bowery. The contrast was forcible. The Bowery seemed just waking up, its day—the real day—was beginning. Already the sidewalks seemed full, and as hasty suppers were despatched, more and more came to jostle along the ways. The shops were all alight and full of chaffering buyers; the many shows had illuminated their signs of glass and gas; the doors of the great Atlantic Garden swung to and fro incessantly. The front of the Old Bowery Theatre flared brightly amid a grove of flags as the evening's audience began to climb the well-worn steps, studied the broad displays of posters, besieged the cavernous entrance to the fourth tier, or simply loafed in every-body's way. Up and down the street flamed strong-smelling lamps of turpentine, lighting the contents of the cheap stands, each one a centre of vociferous and eager trade. After a few minutes spent in the theatre to secure places where we could see the house to good advantage, we found, when we came out, that the roar of the street was perceptibly increased. The crowd had thickened, and the motion and confusion were greater. As we stood on the theatre steps regarding the liveliness of the scene, half a dozen fire-engines came by with the usual fierce clamor and headlong rush. If any thing were needed to complete the picture it was precisely this strong "effect" of the engines dashing through the crowded, gleaming street, amid the screams of women and the hoarse shouts of boys.

We strolled up the street, past pungent odors, past fruit stalls and stands of the roast-chestnut men, past shining shows of cutlery and spreads of trichinosial bologna carved to slabs of mottled salmon-pink, past

drinking shops innumerable (now saloons—*Credat Judæus Apella*), “Cheap Johns” and policy-shops, pawnbrokers and cigar shops, displays of Bowery millinery and faded dry goods; until we came to a “Cheap John” of unusual glare and pretension. “Walk in, gentlemen,” he cried, with swift and easy hospitality; “walk in and see the only truly American and great Cheap John, the benefactor of his country, the George Peabody of New York.” This could not be resisted, so we walked in. The Cheap John cried his wares in a large high room hung about with an incongruous miscellany of goods, filled up across one end with much appearance of merchandise in bulk, with shelving along one side, in front of which was a counter enclosing a high platform upon which the Cheap John walked up and down, incessantly declaiming to a dense crowd. He was a short, stout fellow, unmistakably “truly American”; as unmistakably of the “bummer” class; with a great quantity of studied stock expressions, some vulgar, but all droll, besides not a little ready wit of the flash sort. It was give and take between him and his audience, the crowd commonly getting the worst of it. “Now, gentlemen,” said the new Peabody, “the sacrifice will proceed. Who gives two dollars for a superb eight-bladed pocket-knife, the handle made of true father-of-pearl, with ends of solid silver an inch long? Show me the man who gives it, and I will show you a — fool. Why, we only ask a dollar and a half—examine the finish closely”—here he made a feint to throw the opened knife among the crowd, whereupon some dodged. “Why, you needn’t dodge,” he said; “these knives are regular life-preservers, couldn’t kill a man with one of them in the most savage and blood-thirsty fury; no chance of cutting your fingers with these knives—nice reliable family article—who’ll buy? Who’ll buy a knife with all the merits of a knife and none of the failin’s, such as accidentally cuttin’ people. How much?”

I offered fifty cents. "Sold again!" cried the Cheap John with dire emphasis, and every-body laughed.

An invoice of wonderful stockings followed, "made in England for the Emperor of Siam, and stolen from his caravan at great risk," by agents of the Cheap John. They were started at two dollars for four pairs, and sold in great quantities at the rate of four pairs for fifty cents. Then came a sale of "changeable tarpaulin"; there seemed to me to be genius in the idea of a changeable tarpaulin. Some Germans coming in, and engaging in the talk in an innocent fashion, were badgered in bad German by the salesman, and roundly abused in English, of which they knew scarce any thing. "You wonder how we can sell so low," said the Cheap John. "Why, exceptin' rent, nothin' costs us any thin' besides paper. Paper costs enormous, 'cause that's cash, and we use up lots of it for wrappers. But the things we wrap up, them we never buy on less than four months, and when the four months have passed, so have we—we have passed on. That's how we can sell so low, and save your money—be your best benefactors—'do good by stealth,' as the poet says. Don't go, gentlemen, going to have a free lunch at half-past ten [it was then about half-past seven]; just brought in another dog for the soup. Look out for your watches, and pass your money right in here for safe-keepin'. There's a pickpocket just come in."

So there was, sure enough, and a policeman led him away. When we left—not with a policeman—the orator was just assuring his public that his was "a great charitable enterprise, the entire proceeds to be given to the poor." I have made selections from the Cheap John's eloquence; to report him at length would be to display his wit to greater advantage; but a report at length would involve corresponding increase of another dimension, and become too broad for family reading.

Coming down the Bowery, which had become a very

Babel, we went into the Atlantic Garden, a vast beer-hall, crowded as we entered, though it was yet early, with a company of all ages and both sexes. Some had made family parties and were enjoying meals of that sort that only German digestion can assimilate; some sat moody over solitary mugs, and there were many couples of men and women, and knots of men. Few Americans were in the company, which was nearly pure German. There were dense clouds of tobacco-smoke, and hurry of waiters, and banging of glasses, and calling for beer, but no rowdyism; rarely are there rows at the German places of resort, so they are less interesting than they might be to the student of humanity.

It was well past the time of beginning when we returned to the Old Bowery Theatre, and crossing the worn and broken tiles of the vestibule passed within the "warm precincts" of the auditorium, captured a fugacious usher, and were conducted to our allotted quarter. The action of the play already had begun to involve its characters in mysteries inexplicable by the unassisted intellect. Issuing forth in quest of a house-bill, I was informed that they were all distributed. Enquiring then what was the title and drift of the drama, the humorous usher replied that he was blest if he knew. By dint of close application and much analogy, we determined that we were witnessing a version of the stock Irish play, in which a virtuous peasant-girl, and a high-minded patriot with knee-breeches and a brogue and an illicit whiskey-still, utterly expose and confound a number of designing dukes, lords, etc., who were assisted by a numerous family of murderers.

One feature of the play was the worn device of confounding the real action with imaginary action; the first act being of real life, and inducing the dream, which thereupon carried forward the story through complications and woful horrors until a happy waking in the last

scene of the fourth act rewarded the virtue that had never been tempted, and utterly blasted the plotting vice that never had existed. The incidents were many and exciting. The scene where the midnight murderers prepared a grave for their coming victim (an afflicted lady who is to be deserted by her husband at this spot), and are affrighted at their noisome task by anguishing groans of the patriot, mourning the lady's unfaithfulness to him, as he distils unlawful potheen among the rocks overhead, was chilling in its awful gloom; while nothing could be finer than the manner in which the patriot, disinterestedly suffering his pots to boil over, came flying to the rescue of innocence over frightful pasteboard precipices and down deep descents of lumber, engaging the whole band of felons at once. "The combat deepens," thwack go the stuffed clubs, plunge the impossible daggers; the wounded ruffians reel and fall and struggle up again knee-high, discharging dreadful cuts at the legs of the deliverer. Those yet unhurt close in upon him, but only rip his machine-sewed shirt, receiving in return such fierce and telling blows that life departs from each in turn, till triumphant virtue takes one shuddering glance at success and faints in an agony of perspiration across the long-since-swooning body of the destined victim.

Summary of six corpses and quasi-corpses in painful attitudes—sudden effect of lime-light, and apparition of constabulary and red-coats (too late, as usual), as "the great green curtain fell on all," amid deafening shouts of "Hi!" "That's too thin!" and "Cheese it!" from pit to fourth tier.

We missed many of the points of this great drama, for the house was a study more interesting than the stage. We idled about somewhat, behind the seats of the balcony, with audible steps among thick-strewn peanut-shells. In the front lobby we met a man whom some-

body had just "gone through," the check-taker and usher calmly comparing guesses concerning the offender. Clambering to the mephitic fourth tier, we watched, as long as untrained lungs could last in that atmosphere, the crowd of rough youth there compacted. Plenty of native sharpness was noticeable in speech and looks among those skyward seats, which doubtless contained also much native good, some of which would work itself clear in time and do something of account in the world; but the main expression of that crowd was of nursing vulgarity and vice, with an indescribable air of sordid ignorance and brutal, fierce impatience of all lovely, graceful, delicate things.

Though a promenade was worth making, the house could be best studied from our box. The whole effect was more interesting than any detached portions, and this was all before us—the pit and first tier below; the second tier meeting the box exactly at our level; overhead, the third tier, its thronging faces full in the flame of the gas; and, darkly above, the true Olympus of the gallery gods. There were no vacant seats. Steadily sloping upward from the footlights was lifted, row above row, the close-packed, stamping, shrieking, cat-calling, true Bowery crowd. The house contained a good number of women, rough-clad but of decent looks, some mothers of families with the families small and great together, and a few "children in arms," which the Bowery rules did not forbid. I saw but two gloved women in the audience; they, by force of their attire I suppose, felt a certain application of the saying, *noblesse oblige*, since they went much out of their way to be agreeable to us, and were very courteous and hospitably minded indeed.

Besides the proper and prevailing peanut, the spectators refreshed themselves with a great variety of bodily nutriment. Ham sandwich and sausage seemed to have

precedence, being both portable and nourishing, but pork chops also were prominent, receiving the undivided attention of a large family party in the second tier, the members of which consumed chops with a noble persistence through all the intermissions; holding the small end of the bone in the hand and working downward from the meaty portion. The denuded bones were most of them playfully shied at the heads of acquaintances in the pit; if you never have seen it done, you can hardly fancy how well you can telegraph with pork-bones when the aim is sure; and if you hit the wrong man, you have only to look innocent and unconscious.

The Bowery audience was by no means content with inarticulate noise; besides the time-honored, technical modes of encouraging the players, there was full and free communication in speech, sometimes a set colloquy with the actors—which the audience counted on, and waited for with great expectancy. This the actors well understood, and when the Irish patriot had a line of particularly overpowering moral import, his sure way to make a point with it was to come down to the front, declaim it vociferously, and end by saying "Is that so, boys?" or "Don't you, boys?" or something of the kind, and then the acclaim and outcry were so loud and long that all babies in the house cried out the moment they could get a chance to be heard, which caused another terrible din, with uncomplimentary remarks about the infants, and "Cheese it!" again—always this cry, which, though it be, as I have learned, a highly plastic expression, yet, from the variety of its frequent application during the evening, must have come in sometimes with great irrelevance.

The second play was a burlesque of "Don Giovanni," with *Leporello's* part given to the clown, an amusing fellow and clever acrobat. The chief part of the story was preserved, though there were many cuts and not a

few additions. The players earned their money. The orchestra never ceased its swift, lilting measures, as though for some endless, preternaturally quick quadrille, and the action of the stage was allowed no resting-place until the whole was done; so, notwithstanding great lack of appliances by way of machinery for transformations and the like, the thing went well by virtue of constant action and the utmost possible rapidity. Shipwreck gave the clown opportunity for an extravagant swimming-scene, and when the Don kicked him out of a two-story window, his descent, clinging to the top of a ladder, and describing a great arc that landed him down by the foot-lights, was very skilfully made. The cream of the play was thought to be in the banqueting-scene, where the clown and an absurd old Irishwoman wrangled over a wash-bowl full of macaroni. The by-play of this scene is not to be here reported, though it pleased the audience greatly. Scarce any of the humor was more relished by most of the spectators than the exquisite device of throwing the macaroni at the orchestra-players, and finally at the "pay-people" in the pit. It cannot be pleasant to be wiped across the face with a string of wet macaroni, and probably those who were thus distinguished did not enjoy it, but all the others did, and the upper tiers howled approbation like a great company of demoniacs. The statue came for the Don at last, and the clown was too well frightened to throw macaroni then, so the hero went for his waiting gin-and-water, with profuse accompaniment of red devils and penny fire-works. When we came away at a quarter before twelve, the third piece, "The Babes in the Wood," was beginning, and the ridiculous heavy villains were just warming to their fiendish work.

Since that evening young men have grown old, but still I have a clear image of the old theatre; the crowd, the air, the crackling peanuts underfoot, the strayed

reveller with empty pocket, the chops and sandwiches, the courteous gloved young women, the raging fourth tier, and eager, bent looks of the rough faces ; the ceaseless lilt and drone of the music sounds in my ears (a dab of macaroni on the neck of the contrabass). I hear the swish of the Don's rapier and the thump of the clown's posteriors on the stage ; the amusing strifes and murders take place again, and the "very tragical mirth." Indeed the single sensation of strangeness that comes from the absence of all familiar faces from among so many of one's own townspeople, was alone almost worth seeking.

Tryon Row, subsequently closed, ran in front of the *Staats Zeitung* Building from Chatham to Cross (now Park) Street. Two fire-engines and a hook-and-ladder company were located upon it.

Captain Schinley, R. A., who was in service at Waterloo, and was held to be over fifty years of age, with the connivance of the mistress of a young ladies' boarding-school in this city, married one of the pupils, not exceeding sixteen years of age, an heiress from Pittsburgh and of great wealth. The relative ages of the parties, the action of the schoolmistress, the great wealth of the bride, and the furtive manner in which the marriage was solemnized (if the word is applicable) by a police officer, with very restricted magisterial duties, contrived to arouse the animadvertence of the relatives of the bride and the entire community. Bennett of the *Herald* for a long time after frequently asked "Who married Captain Schinley?" until the delinquent was goaded into responsive action and the question ceased.

The premises on Fifth Avenue between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets were occupied by Corporal Thompson as a well-known and popular way-side house of entertainment, who continued there for several years ; the location being subsequently occupied by Franconi's Hippodrome (see 1853) and in 1858 by the Fifth Avenue

Hotel. This was the stopping place of pedestrians or loungers. Gramercy Park, although designed several years earlier, was not laid out nor improved before this year. This pretty place owes its existence to the munificence of the late Samuel B. Ruggles.



CORPORAL THOMPSON'S, BROADWAY, SITE OF FIFTH
AVENUE HOTEL

CHAPTER XVIII

1841.—ISAAC L. VARIAN AND ROBERT H. MORRIS, MAYORS

JANUARY 30, there was given at the City Hotel a ball which was known as the "Young Men's," from the circumstance that fathers of families were not permitted to subscribe to its cost. It was, in fact, a renewal of the "City Assemblies" held at the same place in previous years, which were not only well and fashionably patronized but were the delight of all who were enabled to attend.

February 23, the ordinance regulating the fares of cabs, which had but lately been introduced, for one-horse cabs, two-seated, with a door in the rear, was enacted and approved. For one passenger one mile, twenty-five cents; for two, an addition of twelve and one-half cents; for one hour with privilege of two persons stopping at shops, etc., fifty cents for the first hour, and thirty-one and one-half cents after that. To Kingsbridge and back, all day, \$3.50.

March 1, Power's last engagement. He last appeared March 9, and sailed on the 10th by the luckless steamer *President*, never reaching any earthly port.

March 11, the Messrs. Glover of this city constructed, under the design of Captain Ericsson, an auxiliary screw propeller bark, the *Clarion*, and upon a trial of her speed she attained seven and one-half miles per hour; which Commodore R. F. Stockton held to be such a success that he addressed the Secretary of the Navy, recommending the introduction of such a class of vessels in the Navy; which recommendation, coupled

with the record here given, led to the construction of the steamer *Princeton* by the department.

April 3, Horace Greeley issued *The Log Cabin* as a weekly paper from No. 30 Ann Street, which had been extensively circulated for six months as a campaign paper in the previous year.

As an editor, Horace Greeley was more generally known than any other; not only in this city, but throughout the United States. He was a powerful writer, bold and influential. His views on national politics were too deep and expansive to be restricted by a party and its expedencies.

Thus, previous to 1860, he published and maintained that, "We have repeatedly said, and we once more insist, 'that the great principle embodied by Jefferson, that Governments derive their power from the consent of the governed, is sound and just; and that, if the Slave States, or the Gulf States only, choose to form an independent nation, they have a clear moral right to do so.' We have never said, nor intimated, that this is a right to be claimed in a freak or a pet. We do not believe—we have never maintained—that a State might break out of the Union like a bull from a pasture—that one State, or ten States may; but we have said, and still maintain, that, provided the Cotton States have fully and definitively made up their minds to go by themselves, there is no need of fighting about it. Whenever it shall be clear that the great body of the Southern people have become conclusively alienated from the Union, and anxious to escape from it, we will do our best to forward their views." In a spirit of vaticination he wrote: "One thing has been settled by the experience of the last twenty years, and that is the moral impossibility of good municipal rule under the sway of any political party. Either the citizens who mainly pay the taxes must come together and resolve to unite, without distinction of party,

in support of the honest, capable men, for responsible places in the municipality, or they must submit to be ruled by speculators and sharpers leagued with miscreants and ruffians. There is just this choice open to them."

In the interim, and with the assistance of a loan of money from a friend, the publishing of the *New York Tribune* progressed; the paper appeared on the 10th of



FIRST TAMMANY WIGWAM, CORNER NASSAU AND SPRUCE STREETS, 1798

April, at one cent per copy, and with the following introduction:

"*The Tribune*, as its name imports, will labor to advance the interests of the People, and to promote their Moral, Social, and Political well-being. The immoral and degrading Police Reports, Advertisements, and other matter which have been allowed to disgrace the columns of our leading Penny (cent) Papers will be carefully excluded from this, and no exertion spared to render it worthy of the hearty approval of the virtuous and refined, and a welcome visitant at the family fireside." It had an edition of five thousand copies, and Greeley reported, "We found some difficulty in giving them away."

Chas. A. Dana and Henry J. Raymond were employed

by the *Tribune*, the former at fourteen dollars and the latter at eight dollars per week.

A steam fire-engine for the city was constructed by Paul Hodge & Co., but from an unwillingness on the part of the members of the Fire Department to adopt it, and from its not being a very decided success, it was not utilized.

Much financial distress was felt during this year; confidence being undermined by renewed suspension of the banks in Philadelphia, Baltimore, etc. A further decline occurred in most of the favorite securities, the market value of which in this year was in many instances seventy per cent. less than the prices of 1838.

In March the ex-President, Martin Van Buren, displaced by the inauguration of General Harrison, visited New York on his way to retirement, being received by a large company of citizens, and welcomed in a public address. On April 5, news was received of the death after very brief illness of General Harrison, the first President who had died in office. On receipt of this intelligence the city displayed all the signs of mourning, and observed with great solemnity the day of the funeral at Washington, business being suspended at noon.

April 7, Mme. Restell, who later acquired a very unsavory reputation, was arraigned for the first time in Court under a charge of malpractice.

April 10 commemorative exercises were performed under direction of the city authorities, most of whom had been political opponents of the deceased President. Business was totally suspended on this day, the whole city was draped in black, and to the sound of minute-guns and tolling bells a vast procession (estimated to contain thirty thousand persons) moved through a storm of snow and rain from the City Hall Park by way of East Broadway, Grand Street, and the Bowery to Union Square, and then down Broadway to the Park

again. The streets were thronged throughout the route, in spite of the weather, and the demonstration was the most impressive the city had ever witnessed.

April 13, Wm. E. Burton, the comedian, assumed management of the National Theatre, opening with the spectacle of the "Naiad Queen." Miss Josephine Shaw, afterward Mrs. John Hoey, long leading lady at Wallack's, was of Burton's company at this time. Later, she was attached to Burton's Theatre, but retired from the stage upon her marriage in 1851. Early in 1854, however, she reappeared at Wallack's.

May, Booth appeared at the National for three nights; on the 29th the house was burned, with all its contents. An incendiary fire was discovered at 5 P. M., and, as it was believed, was extinguished. After the evening performance Burton and others made a search of the house for the sake of security, discovering nothing amiss; yet, toward seven in the morning, fire again broke out and almost at once grew beyond control.

June 29, a vote was taken in the Board of Aldermen on the resolution of a committee to abolish the permits for the erection of booths around City Hall Park on the afternoon preceding the Fourth of July, which was negatived, and the erection of booths continued for a few years afterward. The existence of them, the peculiar character of their proprietors, and of the refreshments furnished, with the crowds that visited them, elicited the general remark upon their cessation, "The Fourth of July passed away when the booths around City Hall Park were taken away."

This anniversary was very differently observed at this period from the custom of a few years later. Thus, our youthful citizens availed themselves of every opportunity to leave the city, and every countryman within a practicable distance of reaching it came with his family to enjoy the sights at the booths and the *feu de joie* of

the military in the Park, drink egg flip or spruce beer and suck oranges.

Fanny Elssler, the *danseuse*, returned to the Park Theatre in June, during a brief summer season, where she repeated her former success, though by this time some of the newspapers had adopted a rebuking tone toward the ballet and its supporters. We add here the fact that Elssler during her stay in America gave a considerable sum out of her receipts in aid of the Bunker Hill Monument enterprise, which had languished since 1825, and with her aid the Bostonians completed the structure, which was dedicated in 1843. Hence it was said that she "danced the top stone on to Bunker Hill Monument." It is easy to fancy that box-office considerations prompted her action, but Elssler was probably as free from the advertising taint as is possible in the case of any public performer.

June 3 the corner-stone of the new Trinity Church was laid.

July, a general bankrupt law was enacted by Congress. By this time remarkable increase in foreign immigration had occurred; the influx being only 80,077 in the period of 1820-29, but amounting for the years 1830-39 to 343,517, including 158,672 of Irish. One result of this was the rise of the Native-American party, which in 1841 nominated its first candidate for Mayor in the person of S. F. B. Morse, who received, however, but 77 votes.

This year was also the date of a very considerable manifestation on the part of the teetotallers, or complete abstainers from intoxicating drink.

July 12, Dr. William James Macneven, a well-known citizen, died. In August died Mr. Henry Brevoort, aged ninety-four. Broadway runs through the "farm" on which he lived, and which he bought for less than the present value of a single front foot of any lot now contained within its bounds.

August 28, August Belmont and Mr. Heyward of South Carolina, who had had an altercation at Niblo's Garden a few nights previous, met at Elkhorn, Md., and the former was seriously wounded.

August 31, a meeting of citizens in favor of a repeal of the Bankrupt Law was called, at which Samuel J. Tilden and Nelson J. Waterbury were secretaries, and the names of such men as Stephen Allen, Campbell P. White, David Bryson, and John T. Brady were appended to the call.

August 21, died Gideon Lee, Mayor of the city in 1833-34.

September 5, the favorite actor Barnes, who died at Halifax on 20th ultimo, was buried, amid a great company of sympathizing spectators. October 11, "London Assurance" was given for the first time in America, Placide playing *Sir Harcourt Courtly*, and Charlotte Cushman, *Lady Gay Spanker*, in which part she made a



BLOCK HOUSE, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD STREET,
BETWEEN NINTH AND TENTH AVENUES

great hit. November 29, Mrs. Barnes retired from the stage after twenty-five years of service.

In September the New York and Erie Railroad was opened from its original terminus at Piermont on the Hudson River to Goshen, Orange County, and a great company made an excursion over the line.

September 19, a vessel bound for New Orleans was unexpectedly delayed after receiving the bulk of her cargo, and before the final closing of the hatches the mate became aware of noisome effluvia in the vicinity of a box, which arousing his suspicion, he opened it, exposing detached portions of a human body, which was subsequently ascertained to be that of Samuel Adams. It had been dismembered, salted, boxed, addressed, and shipped to a fictitious address in St. Louis *via* New Orleans.

In the investigation instituted by the police it was learned that an occupant of an office adjoining that of Samuel Colt in Broadway became suspicious of Colt, and looking through the keyhole of the door between their offices, saw him wiping blood from the floor; which fact being communicated to the police, Colt was arrested, tried, convicted, and condemned.

The Board of Assistant Aldermen passed a resolution that a roadway, twenty-five feet in width, should be opened in Ninth Avenue from Forty-second Street to its junction with Bloomingdale Road (Broadway and Sixty-fourth Street) at a cost not to exceed two thousand dollars, which the Mayor declared to be quite unnecessary, as Eighth and Tenth avenues were opened. By being opened, the reader is informed that they were country roads.

A Miss Lucretia Mott, who was a very popular lecturer on woman's rights, announced that women were capable and worthy of occupying the same situations as men.

There was much complaint at this time regarding the

delivery of the mails, and there was published in a Buffalo paper a request by the editor that any passenger, by stage or railroad, who had any newspapers with him and had no further use for them for two or three days, would please to send them to its office in order that it might be enabled to give the news to the public.

October 29 a meeting of Roman Catholics was held under the chairmanship of Bishop Hughes, the object of which was to obtain a portion of the public school fund for the benefit of their church; the attendants at the meeting being urged to vote only for candidates pledged to that course. This much increased the general feeling of alarm among our citizens which had been excited by former movements in the same direction.

The progress of the uptown movement appears in the consecration in November of the present Church of the Ascension, at Fifth Avenue and Tenth Street; the former church of this congregation having been in Canal Street.

In November the new Merchants' Exchange (the present Custom House) was opened, the cost of building and ground being about two millions.

November 26, the Prince de Joinville having arrived here on the 15th of September in command of the frigate *La Belle Poule*, and being at this time a visitor in New York, a ball was given in his honor by Dr. and Mrs. Valentine Mott, whose fine house was filled with the best of our society. A dinner was given to the Prince at the Astor House by the City authorities on the next day.

It was held to be an exceptional one, inasmuch as the great number of dignitaries, officers of the Army and Navy, etc., invited, filled the capacity of the hall; and as there was not any space left for the usual hangers-on of our City Fathers, the entertainment was hailed as one worthy of the guests and the occasion.

The building at the "Five Points," as the locality was termed, formed by the junction of Anthony, Baxter, and Park streets, built when its location was far in the country and known as the "Old Brewery," was a residence for outlaws, degraded and vicious whites and blacks of various nations. Its history was associated with such crimes and murders that few persons ventured into its locality at night unless escorted by a police officer. Charles Dickens visited it, and essayed to describe it. The Five Points Mission now occupies this site. (See page 486.)

There were other notorious locations within the boundaries of the "Five Points" and "Mulberry Bend," as Maloney's and "Bottle Alley," both of which were an "Alsatia" * or harbor for human derelicts, criminals of the lowest grade, and tramps. The former place was held to have been the scene of many murders, and regarding the latter, in the rear of the former with a connecting passageway, the *Herald* gave the details of no less than seven known murders.

In this year the New York Society Library removed to its new building at the corner of Broadway and Leonard Street, and the New York Historical Society removed to the New York University building.

In March, 1856, "The Ladies' Home Missionary Society" of the "Methodist Episcopal Church" was chartered; its object being to labor among the poor, especially at the "Five Points," provide fuel, clothing, etc., for them, to educate their children, and to maintain a school there.

* In the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, Whitefriars, adjacent to the Temple, London, was known as Alsatia, and it had the privilege of a sanctuary, except against a writ of the Lord Chief Justice or of the Lords of the Privy Council; and as a result it was the refuge of the perpetrators of every grade of crime, debauchery, and offence against the laws. The execution of a warrant there, if at any time practicable, was attended with great danger, as all united in a maintenance in common of the immunity of the place.

November 18. Colt was to be hanged this day; he was married in his cell to Caroline Henshaw by the Rev. Henry Anthon. At 4 P. M., on his cell being entered, he was found to have committed suicide by stabbing himself with a dirk knife. Simultaneously with this discovery a fire broke out in the Tombs. The coincidence of the



CLAREMONT. BROADWAY, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD STREET,
AND ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH AVENUES

day of expiation and the fire induced the opinion with many that the fire was not accidental, and that, in the confusion consequent upon its occurrence, some of the prisoners, aided by friends, might have escaped.

It has been further alleged that with the connivance of the coroner, and with a jury not one of whom was cognizant of Colt, a body other than his was shown to them and that Colt was allowed to pass unobserved out of the Tombs, and that he has been recognized since in California.

The interest manifested in this case was without precedent, and efforts to save Colt were made by the Rev. Henry Anthon, David Graham, Robert Emmett and his brother, and many others.

November 21, an official return for a large part of the vote at the late election in the State, and an estimate for the balance, gave to the Abolition party but six thousand votes.

Dionysius Lardner, LL.D., the eminent English writer on physics, who in a public lecture had advanced the impracticability of oceanic navigation by steam, arrived here for the purpose of giving a series of lectures in the principal cities of the Union. As he was not as familiar with the construction of the American marine engines as he desired, he was pleased to address and visit me, and I aided him. He was an exceptionally lucid lecturer, was ill received and only fairly patronized here, but both well received and patronized in other cities. The impression left upon me from my association with him was not such as to lead me to cultivate any further acquaintance.

November 15, Alderman Abraham Hatfield introduced to the Board of Aldermen a resolution suggesting the expediency of revising the market laws so as to permit butchers to sell fresh and salt meat in any part of the city; as under existing laws no one but an occupant of a stall in one of the public markets was allowed such privilege.

Until the claim of the market butchers of having the exclusive privilege of selling meats, and that only in the public markets for which they paid a tax, was disputed by the "shop butchers," as they were termed, and supported by the general public, meats and vegetables could only be obtained in the public markets. The claim of the market butchers was defended by them for a long while, as instanced in the case of a Mr. Salter, a butcher, who in December was indicted and convicted of selling meat in a shop, and fined one hundred dollars and costs. It availed not, for the public supported the shops and the market men gave up the contest.

In evidence of the necessity of such a change, I, at a distance of exactly one and one-tenth of a mile from the nearest public market, now purchase meats, vegetables, and fruits near to my residence. Well might it be quoted, *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis*.

There is another feature in our business relations worthy of notice. Corner stores, wherever they existed, were as a practice occupied by the Irish as groceries, where a *bar* was maintained. Upon the advent of the Germans the Irish were gradually but uniformly displaced by them, and the Irish in turn replaced them with liquor stores, erroneously and absurdly termed "saloons," in which enterprise they were, upon the introduction of lager beer, joined by the Germans.

After the election in November it was ascertained that a number of Whig partisans had hired in Philadelphia and transported here a great number of men, ostensibly plumbers and pipe-layers; but for the sole purpose of voting for Whig candidates in wards where their votes would "do the most good." The names of several well-known citizens were given as connected with the enterprise. The Democratic papers dwelt upon the act and termed the perpetrators "pipe-layers"; which term was for a long while applied to them and to the party, and is still in current use to denote concealed and indirect methods of political or other action.

James B. Glentworth was held to be the instrument by which the scheme was operated, and on the 27th of January of the following year he was indicted under seven separate complaints for misdemeanor in furnishing money wherewith to pay cost of transportation and maintenance of the parties he obtained. In consequence of some alleged informality in the indictments six of them were demurred to, and a court annulled them. Upon the remaining one he was arraigned and tried, and on the 30th of May the jury failing to agree (five to seven) it was dis-

charged, and on June 2 he was surrendered by his bail; but obtaining other, and after a second trial had been ordered and much argument made, the further prosecution on October 10 was ultimately dropped, and on November 24 he was discharged. December 2, he issued an address to the public in which he exposed the operation, acknowledged himself to have been the agent, but indignantly transferred the *onus* of the transaction to those who had suggested the work and furnished the money.

In this year a commission of registry of three members was first appointed, who received the applications of persons desirous of voting at the next election; and, if they were decided to be qualified their names were duly registered.



HEAD OVER WINDOW IN WALTON HOUSE

CHAPTER XIX

1842.—ROBERT H. MORRIS, MAYOR

THE business stringency continued this year, with securities much depressed, trade stagnant, and city real estate at the lowest point of salable value it had reached for many years.

The Cunard steamer *Britannia* arrived at Boston, bringing twenty-five days later news from England. This same vessel, although one of the first class of her day, would not now be of sufficient dimensions and speed to be chartered for the transportation of cattle.

The average of nineteen passages from Liverpool to Boston *via* Halifax, and deducting time there, was fourteen days and ten hours, and on January 20, Charles Dickens, with Mrs. Dickens, arrived in * her. It would be difficult to convey to my readers of later generations a sense of the excitement caused in the simpler society

* In her, not on her, which latter expression is universally published in our daily papers; and how such an inappropriate term could have been adopted can only be explained by the analogy that before the advent of steam navigation on the Western rivers, and the construction of railroads; the transportation of crops, etc., and even of passengers, was effected on rafts, borne by the current of the rivers. One was very properly said to have arrived on a raft; hence, when steamboats were introduced, the expression was continued. One coming by railroad might with equal propriety say he arrived on a railway car.

During the Mexican War, upon the arrival of Major-General Scott and his staff at Vera Cruz, it was published throughout the Union that he and they had arrived there *on* the *Massachusetts*. Now, from my knowledge of the vessel, I fail to see how they could have been accommodated on her, that is above deck, and if they were not wholly accommodated there, they did not arrive "on her." In other words, the expression is inapplicable and a vulgar localism.

of that period by this visit. Dickens had then published, of his more important works, the "Pickwick Papers," "Oliver Twist," "Nicholas Nickleby," "The Old Curiosity Shop," and "Barnaby Rudge." These were as familiar in this country as in England; great novelists were rare sights here; and mere curiosity joined with a feeling of real personal attachment to induce evidences of interest and regard which, to speak truly, were a little beyond proper measure.

Some of our leading citizens united in a letter of welcome to the novelist while he was yet in Boston, inviting him to a public dinner. Almost immediately afterward a considerable meeting at the Astor House, presided over by the Mayor, determined to add to the dinner a grand ball at the Park Theatre; a letter of invitation, signed by all present, being despatched to Boston by a private hand for delivery personally. The *Journal of Commerce* published the following :

They'll tope thee, Boz, they'll soap thee, Boz,
Already they begin ;
They'll dine thee, Boz, they'll wine thee, Boz,
They'll stuff thee to the chin.
They'll smother thee with victuals, Boz,
With fish and flesh and chickens ;
Beware, Boz, take care, Boz,
Of forming false conclusions,
Because a certain set of folks,
Do mete thee some obtrusions,
For they are not the people, Boz,
These tempters of the cork,
No more than a church steeple, Boz,
Is Boston or New York.

The ball occurred on February 14, the stage and pit of the theatre being floored over for dancing. The decorations of the house were wholly composed of scenes from the works of Dickens, and upon a small stage erected for the purpose were displayed in intervals be-

tween the dances *tableaux vivants* composed after the incidents of his different novels. The ball was attended by about twenty-five hundred persons; and in some instances subscribers to the ball, who were prevented from attending, sold their tickets for forty dollars. The dinner was given on February 18, at the City Hotel, with Washington Irving in the chair. Many private attentions also were cheerfully paid to Mr. and Mrs. Dickens, who sailed for home on June 7. The "American Notes," published in the fall of this year, were commonly (though perhaps improperly) considered to be an ill return for hospitality so lavish. To this feeling the appearance of "Martin Chuzzlewit," in the next year, added (and more justly added) a new bitterness. In the midst of their wrath, however, people smiled when remembering the advice attributed to *Mr. Tony Weller* by Mr. Dickens: that *Mr. Pickwick* should escape from the Fleet prison in a hollow pianoforte and take passage for America, after which in due time he should "come back and write a book about the 'Merrikins' as 'll pay all his expenses and more, if he blows 'em up enough."

Mr. Robert C. Winthrop relates of Mr. Dickens that, before he reached Washington, he had accepted invitations to dinner to an extent that precluded his acceptance of an invitation from both the President and ex-President Adams. The latter, in anticipation of meeting Dickens, had, at his daughter-in-law's suggestion, procured a copy of the "Pickwick Papers," but could not, as he said, proceed beyond a few chapters, remarking that while the author had a wonderful faculty of description, the incidents portrayed were not worth describing; adding that "there was no novel like 'Tom Jones.'" If instead he had said "Gil Blas," there are many like to myself who would have agreed with him.

Mr. Winthrop further relates that Dickens wrote to

Mr. Adams that he and his wife asked the privilege of coming to luncheon the following day at two o'clock. Accordingly an elaborate lunch was provided, but not only did Dickens and his wife come late, but before the meats had been removed they arose, with the plea that they had to dress for dinner at the house of an employé of the State Department, and the luncheon was broken up.

As some mitigation of Dickens's conduct on this and some other occasions, it was advanced that he had been led into the infelicity of "previous engagements" by officious friends. On the other hand he evidenced a preference for the company of newspaper men and reporters, and the flattery he had received at Boston and New York induced a degree of *brusquerie* and waywardness even in the company of men entitled to his respect.

Copies of Dickens's "American Notes" were received from England, and his ill-natured and unjust criticisms and but partial commendations aroused a very general feeling of indignation and humiliation with those who had been in anywise connected with the complimentary manner in which he had been received.

I met him on his second visit here, and although I breakfasted in company with him, I declined an introduction, notwithstanding I am an enthusiast when I refer to some of his works.

Mr. Dickens's visit was measurably disappointing; we did too much for him and his lady; they did not appreciate the honor bestowed on them, and overrated their importance. When in Washington they were charged with a neglect of etiquette amounting to incivility.

It must be added that on the subsequent visit of Mr. Dickens, at the Press Dinner given to him in April, 1868, just before his departure, he made a graceful and feeling statement in the nature of an apology, or

even a recantation, which he engaged to have appended to every copy of the offending works so long as he or his representatives should retain control of their publication.

January 19, the Registry Law for the city was repealed by an act of the Legislature.

In February the *Herald* claimed to have attained a daily publication of 27,890 copies. On the 2d, the General Bankrupt Law was enacted by Congress.

February 8. Public sentiment was so adverse to the operations of stock-brokers that Recorder F. A. Talmadge, in his charge to the Grand Jury, invited its attention to their objectionable practices.

The Atlantic Mutual Insurance Co. was organized by several merchants with a subscription of one hundred thousand dollars, and Walter R. Jones was elected president. In 1860 it made a scrip dividend of thirty-five per cent., and had assets amounting to \$6,646,292.16. and 1894, forty per cent., and assets, \$11,340,731.85.

February 12. The City Despatch Post was this day put in operation. Letters or parcels under two ounces, three cents; under eight, six cents. It was known as the Penny Post.

Referring to a file of the *Evening Post* for a date which I had forgotten, I noticed its publication of the list of unclaimed letters in the Post-office. This was a practice of the period before and for some years after. The greater number of such letters, and the space occupied by the addresses, after a few years rendered such notice quite impracticable.

February 14, Bennett of the *Herald*, who had been indicted for libels on Judges Lynch and Noah of the Court of Sessions, was fined one hundred dollars for one offence and two hundred and fifty for the other.

April 9, having occasion to refer to a date in this year, I noticed the quotations of the market both for

meats and fish, and the rate of exchange on bank-bills, and give them without selection as to period or prices exceptionally high or low.

Meats and fish: Porter-house steaks, 12c. per lb. Ducks and fowls, 50 to 100c. each. Beef, 5 to 11c. per lb. Sirloin, 10c. per lb. Mutton, 5 to 8c. per lb. Chickens, 37½ to 75c. each. Lobster, 8c. per lb. Butter, 25c. per lb. Lamb, 6 to 8c. per lb. Shad, 18¾c. each. Crabs, 2c. each.

Rates of exchange on bank-notes: New England, ¾ to ½ per cent. Pennsylvania, ½ to 2 per cent. Maryland, 3½ to 7 per cent. Virginia, 8 to 9 per cent. Mississippi, 50 per cent. Ohio, 12 per cent. Georgia, 5 to 20 per cent. Alabama, 16 to 17 per cent. Illinois, 50 per cent. Michigan, 35 per cent. Florida, 60 to 75 per cent. Louisiana, 10 to 15 per cent.

In the same paper I note the sales of stocks and bonds, as reported for the day, to consist of but twenty-eight sales of all kinds.

April 15. In this year our shipping interests, like all others, suffered from the depression of business, but as an indication of the extent of the New York shipping trade at this period, in comparison with that of later years, there were in port this day 70 ships, 34 barks, 93 brigs and 250 schooners.

April 28. There was a large meeting at Tammany Hall this evening, held in pursuance of a call to express the opinion of the Democratic party on the action of Thomas W. Dorr of Rhode Island, in declaring himself elected Governor and essaying to maintain the position. Eventually he failed to maintain his claim, and he and his followers dispersed. When he was here in about 1825, reading law, we resided together.

May. The new Custom House on Wall, William, and Hanover streets and Exchange Place was completed and occupied; the entire cost being a million of dollars.

May 10. The second great horse race between Northern and Southern breeders came off this day at the Union Course, L. I. The occasion of it was a challenge by Colonel Wm. R. Johnson, "The Napoleon of the Turf," to James Long of Washington, to run his mare "Fashion" four-mile heats against the latter's horse "Boston," for twenty thousand dollars a side. It was won by the former in 7 minutes 32½ seconds and 7 minutes 45 seconds, and it was estimated that there were fully fifty thousand persons present.

After the *Anglomania* possessed our breeders here, and they supplanted two-, three-, and four-mile heats by flat races of three-quarters to a mile and one-half, and entered two-year-olds, a horse over three years of age is seldom seen upon a course, but when entries of three-year-olds and above were alone entertained, horses were entered and run up to nine years, which was the age of "Fashion" in the race above noted, "Boston" being five; and "Eclipse" in his great race, in 1823, was eight years old.

June 7. In the early part of this month, Judge Kent and Aldermen Ball and Hatfield presiding,* a case was tried that involved very much more interest than any occurring within the period of these reminiscences. It was that of Colonel Monroe Edwards, *alias* J. P. Caldwell, who had been arrested on the 7th of October in the previous year for forgery and fraud. He, by a system of forged letters, to and from various parties in the country, displayed knowledge of a high order of business and commercial affairs, by which he obtained two sums of twenty-five thousand dollars each, on exchange, notes, and letters. On October 5 he was brought to this city.

He was prosecuted by Jas. R. Whiting, the District Attorney, assisted by Hon. Ogden Hoffman, and de-

* Previously, and for some years after, the aldermen were associated with a judge in all criminal cases.

fended by Hon. J. J. Crittenden, U. S. Senator, and Hon. Thos. F. Marshall, both from Kentucky, J. Prescott Hall, Robt. M. Emmett, Wm. M. Price, and Wm. M. Evarts.

The trial lasted seven days, the verdict was "guilty," and the sentence ten years in the State Prison. So great was the interest in the trial, and such was the eloquence of the counsel, that the proceedings with the speeches, published in pamphlet form and sold for six and one-quarter cents, were thus circulated not only in New York, but very widely through adjacent States.

This was the first appearance of Mr. Evarts in an important case, and he gave promise of his future distinguished ability.

Edwards died, January 29, 1847, before the termination of his sentence, from indiscretion, and to this day, when it is essayed by those who knew of him to give an example of personal address, skill, and criminal adroitness—he is instanced.

June 1, Niblo's opened with the Ravels and a dramatic company of which the Misses Cushman were members. The Ravels occupied the house for four nights of each week. During this season they produced "The Green Monster," a pantomime that remained famous for many years.

The work on the Croton Aqueduct was so far completed that water was turned into it on June 21, and on the 27th it was admitted with formal ceremony into what was known as the upper reservoir at Yorkville, now familiar as the "old reservoir" in Central Park. It was introduced with further ceremonies, on July 5, into the reservoir at Fifth Avenue and Forty-second Street, then described as "at Murray's Hill, a short drive from the city."

July 9, Mr. Pinteaux opened the Café des Mille Colonnes in Broadway, between Duane and Anthony

(Worth) streets. In accommodation and appointments it was far in excess of any previous essay in this country.

July 19, Marcus Cicero Stanley, who had rendered himself notorious in some alleged scandalous transactions, was cowhided in the Park by an offended party.

August: James E. Cooley, a resident of the city, had travelled in the East; and on his return he published a book of his travels, in which he commented on some act of George R. Gliddon, the British consul at Cairo. Soon after the appearance of the book Mr. Gliddon arrived in the country, and he provoked a personal *rencontre* with Mr. Cooley in the store of the Messrs. Appleton, the publishers of the book; resulting in Mr. Cooley being fined by a court to the amount of five dollars.

John Anderson, who occupied a store in Broadway under the St. Nicholas Hotel, Broadway and Spring Street, had employed a very pretty young woman named Mary Rogers. She was very attractive, and so much admired that both she and the place where she was employed partook of notoriety. On a day in July (a Sunday, I think) she left home, and was never seen again until her bruised body was discovered in the water near the "Sibyl's Cave" at Hoboken. An examination of the vicinity developed the fact that there had been a severe struggle. The notoriety of the victim, the evidence of her resistance, whether in defence of honor or life, the question of the *animus* and the identity of the murderer, all contributed to an exciting mystery, which the police of two counties signally failed to disclose. The theory of robbery from the person was not for a moment entertained. An opinion was general, which gained ground, that the act was that of an officer of the Navy.

In August Lord Ashburton (Alexander Baring), having concluded with Mr. Webster the negotiation of the "Ashburton Treaty," by which was defined the disputed boundary line between Maine and Canada, visited New

York on his way homeward. He was received with every sign of good feeling, had the Governor's Room in the City Hall placed at his disposal, received much private hospitality, and was entertained at a public dinner and also by Captain M. C. Perry, of the Navy, on board his command, the steamer *Fulton*, on which occasion I was present.

September 13, one McCoy was killed in a prize-fight by his antagonist, Lilly. The affair took place at Hastings-upon-Hudson. Lilly escaped, but the seconds in the combat were convicted of manslaughter in the fourth degree.

September, George Vandenhoff appeared here for the first time in this country, in "Hamlet," and afterward in other tragedies and in high comedies. His performances were of great elegance, but not very successful with the public.

September 26, Richard Riker died.

September 29, Rev. Antoine Verren, Rector of the Church du St. Esprit, having been tried by Judge Lynch and four aldermen under an indictment for perjury, was acquitted by the jury with the expressed approval of the Court.

At this period the depression in business and manufactures was very extensive, and the effect was sensibly exhibited in the depreciation of stocks; thus: In nine solvent companies, the stocks of which were marketable, the mean depreciation was forty-six per cent. In the latter part of this year I joined the United States Steam Frigate *Missouri*, and the effect of the manufacturing depression was manifest in the *personnel* of the crew; a majority of which were workmen out of their proper employ, and were derisively termed, by the sailors proper, the "cotton weavers."

October 16, at a public sale, vacant lots in the city, which in 1836 had been purchased for twenty-five hun-

dred dollars and three thousand dollars, sold for five hundred dollars.

As a matter of general information it was published that the time of travel hence to New Orleans was from six to seven days, and the least actual cost \$57.25.

October 18, in illustration of the manner of conducting the nomination of candidates for Congress, State and City officers: each ward was entitled to five delegates, who met at Tammany Hall, and there by ballot announced their candidate. On this day there was a nominating convention held there for Register and Assemblymen. At this period, and for some years after, our representatives in Congress and the Legislature were nominated and elected on a general ticket. There were seventeen wards, hence the convention consisted of eighty-five members, and forty-three votes were necessary for a nomination. On the ballot for Register J. Sherman Brownell received forty-eight votes, and was duly nominated. On the first ballot for Assemblymen, there were the names of fifty-two candidates presented, of which George G. Glasier, a shipwright, received forty-four and he was the only candidate receiving a majority; Samuel J. Tilden being fourth on the list with thirty-six votes.

Mr. and Mrs. Brougham first appeared in October; he became at once popular and long remained efficient on our stage as actor and playwright.

October 14, the great Croton Water celebration took place, surpassing in its proportions and interest any public occasion ever before known in New York, including even the famous parade on the completion of the Erie Canal. The procession was estimated to be seven miles long, in endless variety, military and civic—including all the troops of the neighborhood, the Fire Department, with firemen of Philadelphia, Brooklyn, and other cities (a mile and a half of firemen), and representatives

of trades and associations of every kind; it required more than two hours to pass, in ranks from two to ten deep. The printers had a car bearing the press which Benjamin Franklin had once worked, on which were printed during the passage, for distribution among the crowd, copies of an ode written for the occasion by George P. Morris, which at a later hour was sung by a large choir, from a stage erected in the City Hall Park. The route was from the Battery up Broadway to Union Square, where the Governor (Seward) reviewed the troops, then by way of the Bowery, etc., to the City Hall, where the procession was reviewed by the Mayor and Common Council. At this point Samuel Stevens, President of the Building Commission, formally transferred the works to the city, the speech of acceptance being made by John L. Lawrence, President of the Croton Aqueduct Board. A collation followed, at which the Mayor and the Governor spoke. Through the day the new fountains in Union Square and the City Hall Park (the latter on the site now defaced by the Post-office) had been playing, to the admiration of all spectators. In the evening a brilliant general illumination ended the public festivities. The city swarmed with visitors; all the near-by towns poured in their populations, while great numbers came from places comparatively remote.

The introduction of water into the city by the completion of the Aqueduct, and the consequent construction of sewers in the streets, afforded the opportunity for the introduction of it in buildings, and, as a result, plumbers were in great demand; but as the few in operation at this period were inexperienced in house work, as it is termed, parties who were wholly ignorant of plumbing embarked in the business, and advertised themselves as "practical" plumbers; hence this general and superfluous prefix to billiard, tonsorial and boot blacking parlors; hatters' signs, etc., etc.!

November 17, Assistant Alderman Atwill introduced a resolution in the Board with a view to the establishment of a day and night police.

It was in this year that the evanescent political party, styled The Native Americans, came into existence. The foundation of its organization was that none but native-born citizens were to be its members, and all were pledged not to vote for any foreigner for office.

A short time previous to this, Simpson, the manager of the Park Theatre, had directed that henceforth females unaccompanied by a man were not to be admitted during a performance; upon which pæans were sung by the press, from the pulpit, and by a large portion of the public. The operation of such a proceeding cannot be fully understood at this day. The third tier of boxes, or gallery, with its foyer and a bar-room, was wholly given up to women and those who sought their company or visited there as spectators. Unfortunately the small size of audiences at theatres at this period, except upon occasions of especial attraction, coupled with the loss of the many men who were attracted solely by the presence of the women, proved too powerful to permit the restriction of women, whereupon Simpson was criticised by the press and contributors to it. Hence his position was, "I'll be damned if I do and be damned if I don't."

The prices of admission at this time were seventy-five cents to the boxes and fifty cents to the pit, now termed the orchestra and held to be the most desirable location, and at the highest price.

About this date prevailed "Mock auctions," or auctions at which, by the aid of confederates, termed "Peter Funks," not an article was sold except at a remunerative price, or in such manner as to trap the unwary, credulous, or submissive victim, in a purchase in which he would be unmercifully swindled.

The *grand coup* of the auctioneer was to set up a dis-

play card on which were affixed a variety of articles, knives, scissors, chains, rings, mock jewelry, etc., etc., upon which a "Funk" would start a bid so small, compared with the value of all the articles, that the uninitiated party present, alike to Peter Pindar's "Hodge," thinks "the fellow must have stole them," and he ventures a bid, whereupon the articles are ceded to him and he is



MANSSION HOUSE, NO. 39 BROADWAY, OF MAJOR-GENERAL MACOMB, LATE
"THE MANSSION HOUSE" OF C. BUNKER (SEE PAGE 121).

invited into a back room to settle. He produces the amount of his bid or a bank-bill in excess of the amount of it, whereupon to his dismay he is informed that there are fifty different articles on the card (as the case may be), and that the price is so much per piece. Upon his remonstrance he is met by two or three men who declare that the articles were offered at so much per piece, and that he bought them, whereupon, after some dissent, he either pays the full amount or loses his money; and as the class of persons who were so swindled were invariably countrymen, they soon left the city and abided their loss, in preference to being incarcerated in the House of Detention to testify if they made the charge.

Whenever an effective *coup* was made by a sale, it was announced "No more sales to-day," and the place was immediately closed; thus precluding the victim from making any immediate demand or disturbance, upon his discovery of the swindle. A common delusion practised upon a stranger, when he stopped at the door and asked what sale it was, was the uniform reply that it was a sheriff's sale, which was given as a sure bait to the unwary.

Despite the attempt to restrain these auctions by legal practice, and the publicity that was given in the papers to their swindling practices, they continued to flourish (Broadway and Chatham Street being the principal locations) until one of our Mayors conceived the effective method of employing a man with two large canvas placards suspended, one in front and one behind him, on which were emblazoned in large letters "Beware of Mock Auctions," and the duty of the man bearing the notices was to walk to and fro in front of these stores.

November 4, Daniel Webster made another visit to New York, and held a public reception at the City Hall, which was attended by the Chamber of Commerce in a body, whose president made an address.

In this month died John Delmonico, the head at that time of the familiar business that had then become well established. He was one of a deer-hunting party at Snediker's, L. I., placed on a stand; he wounded a deer, which was killed at the adjoining stand. When his associates went to join him they found him dead; the excitement of the coming of and firing at the deer induced apoplexy.

Philip Hone's "Diary" preserves for posterity the following singular notice: "A Card: The widow, brother, and nephew Lorenzo, of the late much respected John Delmonico, tender their heartfelt thanks to the friends, Benevolent societies, and Northern Liberty Fire Engine Company, who accompanied his remains to his last home.

The establishment will be reopened to-day, under the same firm of Delmonico Brothers, and no pains of the bereft family will be spared to give general satisfaction. Restaurant, bar-room, and private dinners, No. 2 South William Street; furnished rooms No. 76 Broad Street, as usual."

October 12. James Watson Webb, who in June had fought a duel with the Hon. Thomas Marshall of Kentucky, in the State of Delaware, and was wounded in the leg, was on the 1st instant presented by the Grand Jury, who in the indictment submitted the following exceptional charge, declaring "James Watson Webb, of an evil and wicked mind and malicious disposition, and a common duellist, fighter, and disturber of the peace of the people of the State of New York," etc.

To this Webb pleaded guilty of having left the State with the intent to fight a duel; whereupon Recorder Tallmadge, a political and personal friend of his, to the surprise of all held that leaving the State with the intent to fight did not render him amenable for having fought, and the indictment was dismissed.

The origin of the meeting was a charge of Webb that corruption was resorted to, to effect the repeal of the Bankrupt Law.*

November 19, Webb was again presented, and pleaded guilty; he was committed to the Tombs, but under exceptional indulgence as to quarters, and regaled by the munificence of his friends.

Bennett of the *Herald* drew up a petition asking the Governor to pardon Webb, which was signed by fully five thousand persons, and forwarded to the Governor (Seward). On the 26th he was sentenced to two years in prison, and on the 2d of December he received a pardon.

While he was in prison Bennett invited a party to send

* This law was repealed by the House of Representatives on the 19th of January, and by the Senate on February 25, 1843.

him one hundred segars, and another to send him half a dozen of champagne. The first was complied with, and Webb was very indignant; for it should be understood that between Webb and Bennett there was a personal, professional, and political feud, and that the latter's actions were designed to be received as the compassionate or eleemosynary action of one who forgave an offender in view of his being in distress.

December 1, Webb and Marshall were indicted in Wilmington, Del., for having fought the duel there.

The Messrs. Robert and George L. Schuyler in the preceding year contracted with the Russian Government for the construction of a steam frigate, the *Kamschatka*; she was completed and delivered in this year at Cronstadt. Regretfully, the Messrs. Schuyler, who were not experienced either as shipbuilders or engineers, adopted a novel design of engines and boilers, which was disapproved by engineers (I use the last word emphatically), and the vessel was not favorably received by the Government after it had witnessed the operation of her machinery.

December 15, the United States brig *Somers*, Commander Alex. S. Mackenzie commanding, arrived from Monrovia, Africa, and soon after it was learned that while cruising on the coast a midshipman on board had formed a mutinous band (the crew of the vessel being principally boys, apprentices from the schoolships) with the purpose of murdering the officers and seizing the vessel, in connection with which J. W. Wales, the purser's steward, was approached and asked to join. He temporized with the proposers, and availing himself of a fitting opportunity, he disclosed the plan to the commander, which was to feign a scuffle on the forecastle, and on the appearance of the officers then to murder all but the surgeon, whereupon the ringleaders were arrested, a court-martial convened which declared the midshipman,

a boatswain's mate, and a seaman guilty, and they were immediately hanged.

This summary proceeding was severely censured by many, and especially so as the midshipman was a son of a Cabinet officer at the time. On the other hand, the action was held to have been necessary to secure the safety of lives, the vessel, and the honor of the service; added to which, the vessel was but a brig, the number of officers was small, and as they were young, it would have been injudicious to have risked the rising of even a portion of a crew that had considered and planned a mutiny.

On the 28th instant a Court of Inquiry was convened at the Navy Yard here, Commodore Charles Stewart presiding, and the Hon. Ogden Hoffman, Judge Advocate.

Captain Mackenzie's professional reputation and career were for some time damaged, but late in the spring of 1843 a long-continued court-martial fully and honorably acquitted him, and the verdict was approved by the President.*

About this period associations of young men under the general designation of target companies, but appearing as "Guards," "Sharpshooters," "Fencibles," etc., became frequent; and as they paraded almost exclusively in the months preceding the fall election, they generally assumed the names of candidates in nomination for a political office, or of the firm or manufactory in which they were employed, when the number thus employed was sufficient to form a company. The conventional manner of equipment was a band of music, two or more tall men, with axes and fur shakos and beards, to represent pioneers; then the company, with muskets and belts, and then a negro supporting a target. The pioneers were men who made a profession of such services, and were hired for the occasion. The muskets, belts, etc., were also hired. In some instances the recipient of the

showmen, introduced a construction which he heralded in his customary manner, and termed it the mummy of a Mermaid. It was the construction of the upper half of a young woman and the after part of a fish, and so elaborately and artistically effected that very many people were deceived and gave faith to the imposition. In 1844, when I was in Washington, I became acquainted with the man who manufactured it; he was from the north of Europe.

It was ascertained that since July 1 of the preceding year, eighty-five steamboats, plying in the Western rivers, had been wrecked, either by explosion of their boilers, fire, or snags.

At the end of the year there was given at the Park Theatre an early form of "Toodles," a play which afterward, at Burton's, became a very great favorite.

The Bowery also reduced its prices this season to 37½ cents for the boxes and 19 cents for the pit, followed by a further reduction to 25 cents and 12½ cents.



AN OLD-TIME KNOCKER OF A STREET DOOR

CHAPTER XX

1843-1844.—ROBERT H. MORRIS, 1843 AND 1844; AND
JAMES HARPER, 1844, MAYORS

JANUARY 2, the secretary of the New York Life and Trust Co., Nicoll, was discovered to have been speculating heavily in lottery tickets and stocks, since December, 1841; he resigned, and his account was deficient two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

JANUARY 5, the historic walls of the Park Theatre were desecrated by the conversion of the pit for the accommodation of Welsh's Olympic Circus and its appearance there, which was not only numerous but fashionably attended until its closing on March 6.

JANUARY 8, at "The Broadway Cottage," opposite the Hospital, which was then termed a "groggery," "rum-shop," or "gin-mill," and now known as saloons (why, I have not as yet been satisfactorily replied to), a young woman in the daytime was allured in and violently assaulted; the perpetrator, a man named Dingler, was arrested. Jas. R. Whiting was District Attorney at the time, and his arraignment and invective, in his opening of the case and his charge to the jury, were exceptional essays, and so effective that the jury were absent less than five minutes, and the prisoner was sentenced to ten years' hard labor in the State Prison.

In illustration of the enterprise of the journalists of the time in the absence of express trains on railroads, electric telegraphy, etc., upon the assembling of the Legislature in this year, the Governor's message was expressed to the city by rival journals, on different sides

of the Hudson River. The riders of the expresses were to start upon the delivery of the message at 12 M.; that of the *Tribune* reached Wall Street at 9 P. M. Probably it left somewhat before the appointed time. The riders were three, with the necessary relays of horses.

Foreign steamers were boarded at Halifax, and the news borne by them was expressed to Boston and New York.

Very stringent business conditions continued through most of this year, some improvement being manifested at its close.

February 14 died Commodore Hull, U. S. N., and on February 21 died Peter Augustus Jay; an eminent citizen, highly esteemed by all classes.

Early in this year the movement to nominate Mr. Clay for the Presidency took form, and the "Clay balls," which were a notable feature of the campaign of 1844, began to be given.

March 21. In the evening of this day a Mr. Corlies, who was proprietor of a billiard room in Broadway near Franklin Street, was called out by a woman, and when they reached Benson Place in Leonard Street, he was shot and killed by a man on the opposite side of the street. The only party to whom an incentive for such a crime existed was soon after arrested in his room; subsequently both he and his wife were indicted, tried, and acquitted for want of direct testimony.

Samuel F. B. Morse, who had conceived his idea of electric telegraphy in 1832, had publicly exhibited a telegraph in the University of New York in 1837. After long delays a Congressional appropriation was made March 3, 1843, for building a trial line from Baltimore to Washington, which was completed in 1844. I was present at the receipt of the first message, and soon after transmitted one to a friend in Baltimore. Submarine telegraphy began in New York harbor in the autumn of

1842. In January, 1846, the telegraph was opened between New York and Philadelphia, and was continued to Washington in the course of that summer. My younger readers can scarcely realize how the telegraph revolutionized methods of domestic, as the ocean cables did the methods of foreign, business.

April 29, Jesse Hoyt, Collector of the Port, was found to be a defaulter to the Government in an amount exceeding two hundred thousand dollars.

In May Peter Lorillard died, at the age of seventy-nine, having outlived his brothers George and Jacob, who had been associated with him in business and the founding of one of the great New York fortunes.

The "Lady of Lyons" was first played in America, in May, 1841, at the Park Theatre, with an admirable cast, Charlotte Cushman as *Widow Melnotte*.

In June President Tyler visited New York on his way to the ceremonies attending the dedication of Bunker Hill Monument. A great display marked his reception here.

In the same month occurred the death of Christian Bergh, at the age of eighty-one. Mr. Bergh may be called the founder of our shipbuilding, which under his care and that of his followers became an enterprise of great magnitude, and produced ships that were unrivalled by those of any other nation. The crushing out of the world-famous American shipbuilding is one of the most grievous errors of modern legislation.

July 4. The residents occupying houses fronting the Bowling Green had erected within the enclosed park a prismoidal structure of rough rock, over the sides of which flowed a stream of water from a Croton pipe. The design was generally held to have been a signal failure; a rather severe criticism in view of the restricted space and the supply of water. On the occasion of a French gentleman visiting one of the contributors to the

structure, his attention was invited to it, and after a brief interval he asked, "What is the name of the architect?" Upon being replied to, that it was Mr. Renwick, he simply remarked, "Mr. Ronwig! I shall remember that name." An American or Englishman would have expressed his dissent from the design in less considerate words.

About this period there were two contending parties interested in the adoption by the Government of their peculiar designs and constructions for the raising of vessels, incorrectly and persistently termed "dock," viz.: The Gilbert or "Balance," by which a vessel could be raised either in an open or enclosed space, but in both cases on a connected and continuous support or bearing; the other the Dakin or "Sectional," the bearing being constructed in sections, by which it was argued that they could by their independent action be adapted to the line of the keel of a vessel, if any curvature therein required such support. This was a very plausible position to advance, although it was an untenable one, and it succeeded with members of Congress, some of whom had never seen a ship, and even with shipmasters and constructors who were not well up in the operation of hydraulic machinery. The result, after one of the severest contests that were ever presented to Congress or the Navy Department, other than one of general public interest, was a compromise, by authorizing the construction by one party at Philadelphia and the other at Pensacola. My official position at the time was one that subjected me to the recitals and arguments of both parties.

In operation both designs were introduced here, and both had their supporters.

July 18 Mrs. J. M. Davenport, formerly "the infant wonder," who had first appeared in June at the National Theatre with great success (at eleven years of age), was

seen at the Park, where she attracted great attention. After a long absence she appeared at the Astor Place Opera House, in the autumn of 1849, in the pride of young womanhood.

August 31, there was a buffalo hunt in an enclosure at Hoboken, N. J., which was witnessed by fully thirty thousand people from this city, and in the progress of the hunt a number of the confined animals broke loose, to the dismay and damage of the spectators.

September, the Chatham Theatre, in new hands, opened. A very notable attachment to the company was the "Virginia Minstrels" (Whitlock, T. G. Booth, H. Mestayer, and Barney Williams), for this was the beginning of "Negro minstrels."

The Park Theatre was very much embellished this summer, even to the building of a new front to the house, and was opened in September, with a return to the old prices.

September 30, at the Episcopal Convention held in St. Paul's Chapel, an exciting contest occurred in the consideration of a vote on a resolution involving the sanction of the forms (?) of the Rev. Dr. Pusey of England. The final vote was on a question adverse to "Puseyism," and the result was, Ayes, clergy 18; laity 37=55; Noes, clergy 97; laity 47=144; a result that was hailed with great glee by the Bishop.

October. On the completion of the United States auxiliary steamer *Princeton*, having a novel design of engines of Captain Ericsson, and one of his screw propellers, Commodore Stockton had given notice that upon the day of departure of the British mail steamer *Great Western*, he purposed a trial of speed, and on the 19th, as the *Great Western* rounded the Fort off Governor's Island, the *Princeton* headed for her, and they raced to Sandy Hook bar.

The *Great Western* was the fastest sea steamer out of

England, and her captain, J. Hosken, accepted the contest, and his vessel was as well prepared as a merchant steamer loaded with freight and fuel, leaving port, could be. On the other hand the *Princeton* was deep, as the competition was not solely to pass over a certain distance in the least time, but to test the sea-going capacity of the vessel.

Captain Hosken, in a letter regarding the contest, claims to have made nine and one-half knots per hour, and acknowledges to have been beaten from one-half to three-quarters of a knot per hour.

During this fall, General Count Bertrand, of Napoleon's army, and companion of the Emperor in exile, divided attention with Macready, being honored with extraordinary civilities, public and private. A public dinner was given him by the French residents.

November, Colonel John Trumbull, the artist and Revolutionary soldier, died, aged eighty-seven.

December, a controversy, not yet forgotten, began between the Rev. Dr. Wainwright and Dr. Potts, a Presbyterian clergyman, originated by Dr. Wainwright's declaring in a letter that "there could not be a Church without a Bishop."

The building for the Leake and Watts Orphan Home, the corner-stone of which had been laid in 1838, was in this year completed and occupied. This was the structure still standing (1895) in the Cathedral grounds, on the line of One hundred and Twelfth Street, near Tenth Avenue, having been but lately vacated on completion of the new Home on the bank of the Hudson, just across the line of the city's northern boundary.

1844. February 7. Although the fine for giving a masked ball (deducting one-half the fine to the giver who informed on himself) was, as has been before stated, one thousand dollars, yet one was given this evening in the upper East side, which the *Herald* in its illustrated

report of it, termed it "Grand Fourierite * Free and Easy, and Joint-Stock Fancy Ball," from which the character of both participants and their actions may be inferred.

February, F. Palmo, the proprietor of the popular Café de Mille Colonnes, an enthusiastic lover of his native music, secured the building 39 and 41 Chambers Street, previously Stoppani's baths, and at his own charges converted it into a charming little house for the production of Italian Opera, and it afterward was converted into Burton's Theatre. The over-confident Palmo lost in this enterprise all the money he had accumulated in his proper business, and was forced to "tend bar" for a living.

It must be noted here that the Harlem Railroad advertised that after the opera "a large car, well lighted and warmed," would be run "from the corner of Chambers and Centre streets as far as Forty-second Street."

On St. Valentine's Day was given at the Astor House the "Bachelors' Ball," which had been long expected by our society and was long remembered for its brilliancy. In the latter part of the month the city was suddenly depressed by news of the disaster on board the *Princeton*.

February 28. It was on board of this vessel that the twelve-inch cast-iron gun known as the "Peacemaker" burst, when the vessel was bearing the President, his Cabinet, officers of the Army and Navy, and members of Congress, and many other gentlemen with ladies, on an excursion in the River Potomac, killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Secretary of the Navy William C. Gilmer, the Chief of the Bureau of Construction, Captain

*Charles Fourier designed a condition of society he termed "Social Unity." Soon after this a call for a meeting of all who desired to form an American society was issued for April, to which were subscribed the names of some dozen well-known citizens. Horace Greeley is reported by the *Herald* to have been intimately connected with the society, and an advocate of its doctrines.

Beverly Kennon, Virgil Maxcy and David Gardiner, of Gardiner's Island, N. Y., and wounding Captain Stockton, Lieutenant Hunt, and a seaman. The gun was cast at the West Point foundry, Cold Spring, N. Y., in 1843, and was satisfactorily proved by Commodore Stockton, I assisting him, and subsequently at Sandy Hook.

March 3, from an investigation by the Grand Jury, it submitted to the Court that the New York Life and Trust Co., with a capital of \$20,750,000, had assets amounting to only \$2,000,000.

This was the exciting year of the Clay campaign for the Presidency. A considerable revival of business began, in spite of the distractions of the canvass.

In this year Captain Ericsson was created by the King of Sweden a Knight of the Order of Vasa, and naturalized as a citizen of the United States.

April 6, the New York *Courier and Enquirer*, referring to the advent of the annual elections for Wardens and Vestrymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, affirmed that the Bishop and many of the clergy were essaying to elect "Puseyites," and that the matter was of great interest to the Church, and that after the Bishop (Benj. T. Onderdonk) had addressed the Episcopal Convention in support of "Puseyism," as it was termed, Mr. John Duer presented a paper signed by several clerical and lay delegates, respectfully dissenting from certain remarks in the Bishop's address (Benj. T. Onderdonk), and requesting that their dissent might be placed in the minutes, whereupon he was interrupted by the Bishop, who violently declared he would not allow the paper to be made a subject for discussion or be put upon the minutes. Mr. Duer arose to appeal from the decision of the Bishop, who, in a very excited and peremptory manner, replied, "Sit down, sir; take your seat," and declared that, if the clergy and laity did not sustain him, he would "resist, even unto death, such an invasion of his rights!"

April 7, General Morgan Lewis died, eighty-nine years old. Son of Francis Lewis, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, he was himself eminent for service in the Revolutionary War. After the peace he became Attorney-general, Justice and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State, Governor, and Senator. In the war of 1812 he served as Quartermaster-general of the United States Army. At the time of his death General Lewis was Grand Master of Masons and President of the Society of the Cincinnati. His funeral in St. Paul's Chapel was a great public event. It was attended by the aged Major William Popham, then ninety-two years of age, Vice-president of the Cincinnati and then the sole surviving original member of the society.

April 7, Washington Hall and its site were purchased from the heirs of John G. Coster by Alex. T. Stewart, who purposed to erect a dry-goods store thereon. Mr. Hone writes that the corner-stone of the Hall was laid on the 4th of July, 1809, and on the 5th of July of this year it was burned.

The Roman Catholics in 1841 had opposed the application of the public-school fund in the established manner; they wanted a portion of it for their sectarian schools, and organized in support of their claim. In this not only did they signally fail, but their action gave additional organization and vitality to the Native Americans, whose action in the mayoralty election of this year was of exceptional interest, as there were three parties in the field, their candidates, Jonathan I. Coddington representing the Democrats, Morris Franklin the Whigs, and James Harper the Native Americans, who was elected; he receiving 24,510 votes against 20,538 cast for Coddington, and 5297 for Franklin. This party was in the majority in the Common Council for some years, but the illiberality of its tenets, added to the return of many of its members to their original parties, when

Native Americans were in nomination, so reduced the new party that in a few years it dwindled out of existence. Mayor Harper signalized his administration by active service in the improvement of Madison Square, and in improving the organization of the Police Department.



JAMES HARPER

His administration partook of the purity of that of his early predecessors in the office, but without the *savoir faire* and *pratiques* of some of the local politicians who succeeded him.

At this period the police officers of the city were few in number, without effective organization, and ununiformed. Mr. Harper, recognizing their deficiency when combined action was required, proceeded to remedy this, and succeeded in effecting an organization that became initiatory to the present one. He also succeeded, despite the opposition to the measure, in establishing a uniform for the members.

April 4, the Fourierites held a great convention in Clinton Hall, at which Horace Greeley presided as one of the Vice-presidents; and on the 8th, the anniversary of the birth of Fourier, there was a grand festival at Apollo Hall, at which Parke Godwin and Horace Greeley addressed the company.

The *Tribune* at this time was the organ of the Fourierites and published their creed.

April 13, Moses Y. Beach, in his paper *The Sun*, essayed to perpetrate a hoax upon the public with an announcement of the arrival of a balloon and its navigator at Charleston, S. C., from England.

April 11, the first Paas festival of the St. Nicholas Society was celebrated.

April 12, the *Herald* having published a very severe article on Henry Wikoff, regarding his business relations with Mlle. Elssler, he replied in the columns of the *Enquirer*, making charges, and alleging circumstances altogether of too personal a nature to be given here.

May 2. At Apollo Hall there was presented the performance of the "Congo Minstrels," later known as the "Negro Minstrels."

June 27. In evidence of the advance or improvement in the capacity of both trotting and running horses, the breeding and training of them: in 1818 "Boston Blue" of Boston, Mass., at Jamaica, L. I., trotted a mile in harness in the then unprecedented recorded time of 3 minutes; in 1824, "Albany Pony," also in harness, a mile in 2 minutes and 40 seconds; and in this year "Americus," driven by George Spicer, trotted three miles on a race-course on Long Island in 7 minutes and 52.2 seconds, equal to an average of 2 minutes and 37.5 seconds; and in 1859, at Kalamazoo, Mich., "Flora Temple," in harness, one mile in 2 minutes and 19.75 seconds. In running horses like improvement had been attained. "Sir Henry" in 1823 ran, as before stated, four miles in 7 minutes 37 seconds; and in 1876 "Ten Broeck" in 7 minutes and 15.75 seconds.

July 1, the Cunard steamer from Boston for Liverpool had sixty-six passengers, and at the same time from this city, the *Oxford* for Liverpool, the *Oneida* for Havre, and the *Victoria* for London had collectively but eighty-four passengers.

May 9, at an annual meeting of the Abolitionists, their actions were of an exceptional and fanatical character. They were wrought up to frenzy, in the passage of a resolution expressing a determination to dissolve the Union. Garrison presided, assisted by Wendell Phillips.

At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen it was advanced that in consequence of the frequent and fatal accidents on

the New York and Harlem Railroad, the rails should be removed from the streets; and a report from a select committee was submitted by it, which, after being laid aside, was not concurred in.

May. It was about this period that the area known as the Fishing Banks was discovered to be a feeding bottom for sea bass, porgies, etc., and Henry E. Neill chartered the first steamboat for the service of fishing and excursion parties.

It was not permitted to sell goods on a Sunday, or to encumber a sidewalk. The fine for the non-observance of the laws was two dollars for each of the offences, and it was demanded and paid.

The proposed annexation of Texas, advanced and advocated at the South and by the Northern Democrats, was violently opposed by partisans of the Whig party, who were opposed to any extension of Southern influence and negro slavery. Meetings for the purpose of expressing dissent were held at various times, and the Administration and "Loco-focos," as the Democrats were termed, denounced. On April 24 a public meeting of all, "without reference to party," assembled at the Tabernacle to protest against the annexation; the call being signed by the leading merchants, bankers, and citizens of the time. The meeting was presided over by Albert Gallatin, and it was interrupted by an adverse party, who hurrahd for Texas, etc. Conspicuously the Whigs outnumbered the Democrats.

The Chatham Theatre opened in the middle of July, with J. W. Wallack as *Hamlet* to the *Ophelia* of Mrs. Flynn. This performance was notable for the appearance of F. S. Chanfrau as *Laertes*. He had worked up from the ranks, afterward becoming famous as *Mose* in "A Glance at New York" at the Olympic. He travelled thereafter extensively through the Union; a handsome man and versatile actor of enduring popularity.

July 29, the Long Island Railroad was opened to its terminus at Greenport, with an excursion over the line to Boston in the following year; and the last train to the South Ferry was run September 30, 1861. Much was expected of this enterprise as affording a main route of travel to the East (by steamboats from Greenport), but it did not fulfil expectation.

April 13. Edward Curtis, a prominent and active Whig who had been appointed Collector of the Port by President Harrison, was this day removed by President Tyler, who was charged with aspiring to be the nominee at the approaching convention, and in view of it he sought to put his partisans in power, and Chas. G. Ferris, a Democrat, was appointed to the vacancy. Both removal and appointment were much criticised.

July 30, the New York Yacht Club was organized by the presence and act of nine gentlemen on board the yacht *Gimcrack* of Mr. John C. Stevens, who was elected commodore. On its first cruise there were nine yachts. Many years prior to this, Commodore Stevens and his brother, Robert L., had built a small sloop, the *Trouble*, and in 1833 they built at Hoboken the schooner *Wave*.

Mr. Korponay, a Pole, who had lately arrived here for the purpose of teaching us the polka, went to Saratoga, where he was received by the young with much *éclat*; and after a very successful course of teaching, he visited Newport and Washington for a like purpose, and successfully. - In August died John G. Coster, at eighty-one, a much-esteemed citizen; and also William L. Stone, who had honorably conducted the *Commercial Advertiser* for a quarter of a century.

I think it was in the fall of this year that the Bowery Theatre brought out a patriotic drama entitled "Putnam, or the Iron Son of '76," which had extraordinary attraction for the public, and ran for nearly eighty consecutive nights. Its cast of characters included Washington,

Greene, Cornwallis, Rawdon, etc., and appealed strongly to a public the elders of which could remember the Revolutionary War.

As the Presidential election drew near, it became the chief topic of thought and conversation. The passionate devotion of the Whigs to the person of Mr. Clay gave a peculiar ardor to their feelings and acts in this campaign, which never since has been matched in point of enthusiasm. On October 30, a great Whig demonstration occurred in New York, followed on November 1 by an equally long procession of the Democrats. In numbers, insignia, and equipments these were superior to any preceding or succeeding display I have witnessed, and I have seen very many. In the election the Whigs "traded" their Congressional and State candidates for Clay votes, thus giving a sweeping success to the Native American party; but that party did not return the compliment in full, and as the Abolitionists voted directly or indirectly against Clay, he lost the State of New York by a small majority, and with it the election.

The first returns favored Clay's prospects, and the Broadway House, on the north-east corner of Broadway and Grand Street, the Whig head-quarters, was a centre of rejoicing over the early news. A procession marched to congratulate Frelinghuysen, the candidate for Vice-president, who was visiting in Washington Place, and he replied in a speech. The Whigs were intoxicated with triumph, but the morning showed New York and the election lost. The Broadway House, after this campaign, lost prestige and declined.

John C. Stevens leased a portion of the grounds of Columbia College, fronting on College Place, and erected a house thereon, somewhat in the Colonial style. In excavating for the foundation, there were exposed and reclaimed two pieces of English field artillery, which had evidently been captured and secreted.

Thomas Ludlow Ogden died in December of this year, aged seventy-one. He was a highly respected member of the bar, of a family connection which is still extensive and of high repute. For many years he had been clerk of Trinity corporation and Warden of the parish. He was grandfather of Thomas Ludlow Ogden, but now dead (1894), almost precisely fifty years later, also in the office of a vestryman of Trinity.

In this year Joseph Francis perfected his life-boat, the precursor of the varieties that have followed.

Houston Street was extended from Lewis Street to the East River.

The last services were held in the Middle Dutch Church, prior to its removal. The old church became the Post-office. It was removed in 1882 to make way for the Mutual Life Insurance Company's building.

August 11. The *Herald* evidently availed itself of every opportunity that was presented to notice what it held to be vagaries or idiosyncrasies of Horace Greeley, the acts or sayings of James Watson Webb, the letters of Henry Wikoff, or to refer to Thurlow Weed (whom, from his political and editorial influence at Albany, it termed the State Barber), or the presence and salutatory displays of the "Bouquet man"⁴ at all public meetings of societies, etc.; and on the occasion of the delivery by Horace Greeley of a lecture in Philadelphia, the *Herald* announced to its readers that "This eccentric genius delivered an address before some literary society at Hamilton College the other day, and a pretty mess it appears he made of it. It was partly literary, philanthropist, Clay, and Fourierite. Horace had better stay at home and look after his paper; he evidently was in a dangerous state of exaltation."

August. Captain James Hosken (Lieutenant R. N.), who had commanded the steamer *Great Western*, arrived here for the purpose of enlisting some of our capitalists

in organizing a company to construct and operate a line of steamers hence to Liverpool and return; the practicability of which he supported by furnishing detailed exhibits of the receipts and expenditures of the *Great Western* and of the *British Queen*. He failed in his mission and returned home.

September 26. There was a great meeting held at Tammany Hall this evening to endorse the measure before Congress relating to the acquisition of Texas, and at it George Bancroft, the historian, made his *début* both as a political and a Democratic speaker. His reception by the meeting was of an exceptionally enthusiastic nature.

On the south-west corner of Trinity churchyard was the grave of Captain James Lawrence, U. S. N., who was killed on board the United States frigate *Chesapeake* in her engagement with H. B. M. frigate *Shannon*. There was erected a shaft with a broken or imperfect capital, as typical of his life, but as the city had provided a new monument, the shaft was removed and the new one (August 22) fronted on Broadway.

In evidence of the commercial position of the city at this period, there were 218 sea-going vessels in port and in service, and in this year there were 50 vessels built here.

In the fall of this year the Democratic party divided in two factions; one being designated by the other as "Barnburners," referring to the story of the man who burned his barn to destroy the rats that ate his grain; later they were termed "soft shells," and the other faction "old hunkers," or "hard shells."

Washington Market was extended out to the bulkhead line, and known as the Exterior or Country Market.

The boundaries of Madison Square were fixed at Twenty-third and Twenty-sixth streets, and Fifth and Madison avenues, the area being 6.82 acres, a reduction of 73.48 acres from the original design of 1814.

In Broadway at 412, near Lispenard Street, there was the Apollo Ballroom, a very popular resort for a grade of politicians who were opposed to Tammany Hall. In later days it was the headquarters of the Apollo Hall or Wood democracy.

In this year the American Musical Institute was founded, under Mr. Henry C. Timm, and Thomas Clyde established a line of steamers between this port and Philadelphia, with the steamer *McKim*; not only the second commercial one, but the first with twin screws—a type now being adopted after a lapse of very nearly half a century.

December 1, the New York Hotel opened by Billings & Monnot.



FIRE BUCKET.

CHAPTER XXI

1845-1846.—JAMES HARPER, 1845; WILLIAM F. HAVEMEYER, 1845-1846, AND ANDREW H. MICKLE, 1846, MAYORS

1845. IN January of this year the Middle Dutch Church, at Nassau, Cedar, and Liberty streets, was converted into the Post-office, and continued in that use until removal to the present Post-office structure in Broadway and Park Row. January 28, Broadway was widened from Twenty-fifth to Forty-fifth Street.

January 11, the *Herald* published a list of such of our citizens as were estimated to be worth \$100,000, and above it, among whom I select the following: John J. Astor, \$2,500,000; Wm. B. Astor, \$5,000,000; Peter Goellet, \$400,000; Cornelius Vanderbilt and John Q. Jones, each, \$250,000; Spingler Estate, \$200,000; and Philip Hone, \$100,000. This last estimate is unquestionably low, and possibly the result of the virulence of Hone's utterances regarding the editor.

January 24, a meeting of citizens was held at Tammany Hall in favor of the annexation of Texas to the United States, which had been the chief matter of our politics for a considerable period and the subject of most excited debate, and was definitely settled in favor of the annexation during the last days of President Tyler's term.

February 5, the offices of the *Tribune* were totally destroyed by fire. A heavy snowstorm prevailed, the fire-engines were delayed by drifts in the streets, the hydrants were frozen, etc. Under these conditions it was with great difficulty that the neighboring Tammany Hall was preserved from burning.

March 24. A brilliant audience gathered at the Park Theatre for the first performance of Mrs. Anna Cora Mowatt's play, "Fashion," which ran for twenty nights.

This spring Alex. T. Stewart, having purchased the site of Washington Hall, at Broadway and Chambers Street, began the construction of his extensive store, which for a long time outrivalled all others. Stewart arrived here from Ireland in 1823, and was engaged as an assistant teacher in a public school. Fletcher Harper, of Harper & Bros., told me he had been a pupil of his. In 1824 he opened a small dry-goods store at 283, in 1827 at 262, and in 1830 at 257, Broadway. In 1828 he or one of his salesmen erroneously charged a lady customer with having secreted some articles from the counter, and as it was alleged that she was treated with much inconsideration the press took the matter up, and so general was the verdict against Mr. Stewart that it was very questionable if he would be able to sustain himself; but the matter lapsed, and was soon forgotten.

March 3, by Act of Congress the postage on single letters was reduced to five cents if sent under three hundred miles, and over that distance ten cents. To take effect on and after July 1.

The Branch Mint was established in this city in the building in Wall Street built and occupied by the Bank of the State of New York.

March 13, the *Herald* issued its first double sheet of eight pages.

April 4, a floating theatre was opened on the North River between Spring and Charlton streets, which had but a brief existence.

April 7, on her passage from Albany to this city, the steamboat *Swallow* under full speed ran upon Rock Island, broke in two, and sank. The loss of life was never ascertained, but it was held to be over fifty.

April 8. The Charter election of this year showed

another turn of politics. Mr. Harper, the Native American candidate for a repeated term of office, lost Whig support in consequence of his party's course toward Clay in the preceding autumn, and was defeated; receiving but 17,485 votes, while the Democratic candidate, Mr. Have-meyer, had 24,307, and the "straight" Whig vote rose to 7032. In 1846, moreover, the Whig vote was 15,256, while the Native American fell away to 8372, the Democratic plurality remaining at about 7000.

April 10, Mrs. Polly Bodine, who was indicted for the murder of a Mrs. Housman and her daughter, and setting fire to their house on Staten Island in order that by the incineration of the bodies of her victims the murder would not be recognized, was tried in this city before Judge Edmonds. District-Attorney James R. Whiting, assisted by D. A. Clark of Staten Island, conducted the prosecution, and the defence was by David Graham and Clinton De Witt. The accused had previously been once tried on Staten Island, but in consequence of local and family interests, etc., the juries had failed to agree; hence a new trial was held here. It occupied the Court for twenty-one days, the judge's charge filled four and one-half columns of the *Herald*. Bodine was declared to be guilty of murder; was again arraigned under a new trial in November before Judge Edmunds, and failing to obtain a jury, the case was transferred to a Court at Newburgh, where she was tried and the jury acquitted her.

April 25, the steamboat *Empire*, of the New York and Albany Line, on her passage to this city in a dense fog, ran into the pier, solid ballasted crib work, at the foot of Nineteenth Street, for the full length of twenty feet. A report of the occurrence was held to be so wholly at variance with the generally entertained opinion as to the practicability of such a result that many persons proceeded to the pier and measured the distance. The effect of such an impact upon like work is to this day a marvel

with many; not recognizing that the impact of even a light body at a high velocity may be superior to the static resistance of a denser one, as illustrated in the projection of an inch of tallow candle from an ordinary fowling-piece through a pine board one inch thick.

The Bowery Theatre was burned for the fourth time, at 6 p. m.; E. L. Davenport's benefit being advertised for that evening. It might seem from the frequency of such conjunctions that benefit announcements had some occult connection with fires in theatres.

May 13. The great horse race between Wm. Gibbons' "Fashion," entered by Samuel Laird, 8 years old and carrying 122 pounds, and R. Ten Broeck's "Peytona," 6 years, carrying 115 pounds, designated as that of the North against the South, for ten thousand dollars a side, was run at four-mile heats at the Union Course, L. I. So great was the interest in this race that it was attended by men from all parts of the Union, and the attendance on the day of the race was superior in numbers to that of the Eclipse and Sir Henry race in 1823. The *Herald* published an extra between the heats. Peytona, representing the South, won; first heat, 7 minutes 39¾ seconds; second heat, 7 minutes 45¼ seconds.

In May died, very suddenly, Robert C. Cornell, President of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, a man very eminent for works of charity.

The Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Tyng accepted the call to St. George's Church, to succeed the Rev. Dr. Milnor.

Grace Church, at the corner of Broadway and Rector Street, was sold for sixty-five thousand dollars; the present structure at Tenth Street was then in progress.

May 28, another and a third contest between the North and the South for the supremacy of the turf, between William Gibbon's "Fashion," entered by Samuel Laird, and R. Ten Broeck's "Peytona" came off at four-mile heats for the Jockey Club purse at Union Course,

L. I., which was won by the former in 7 minutes and 48 seconds, and 7 minutes and 57 seconds. The entire racing and sporting population of the country was again interested, and the attendance was very great.

In illustration of the publication and sale of daily papers at this time, the *Herald* gave a sworn statement of its publication for the month of June and an estimate of that of six other leading papers. Thus: daily average of *Herald* 11,501, and 13,266 for the others combined.

June 13, Mrs. Mowatt appeared for the first time on any stage, at the Park Theatre, as *Pauline*, in "The Lady of Lyons," with success as extraordinary as were the conditions under which it was achieved, for it was said that her appearance was but three weeks after she had resolved (for financial reasons) to go upon the stage; that she had but one rehearsal of her part; and never had been behind the scenes till the day before the production of her own play, "Fashion."

Her last appearance on the stage was at Niblo's, June 3, 1854, on occasion of a complimentary benefit arranged for her by some of the first citizens of New York. She then played *Pauline*. Her marriage to Mr. W. F. Ritchie of Richmond, Va., followed almost immediately. She died abroad, in 1870.

July 12, the passage from Boston here *via* Long Island Railroad was accomplished in 9¾ hours, which was so exceptional that it was noticed in the papers of the following day.

The organization of the New York Yacht Club being effected, the flag of the Club designed by Captain Robinson was adopted, and the house in Elysian Fields at Hoboken assigned as the headquarters. The course of the annual prize races for the Club was first from off the Elysian Fields to a buoy off Staten Island, then across to Owl's Head, L. I., and back to the point of starting.

Later, the courses extended to the southwest Spit; then from Quarantine, Staten Island, and from buoy off Hoffman Island around the Sandy Hook lightship.

July 17. The first regatta of the Club occurred this day; the contestants being the *Gimcrack*, John C. Stevens, Commodore; *Spray*, J. H. Wilkes, Vice-commodore; *Cygnets*, Wm. Edgar; *Minna*, Jas. Waterbury; *La Coquille*, John C. Jay; *Syren*, Wm. Miller; *Sybil*, Chas. Miller; *Mist*, Louis Depau; *Dream*, Geo. L. Schuyler; *Lancet*, Geo. Robbins; *Adda*, Captain Roberts; *Northern Light*, Wm. P. Winchester; *Ianthe*, Geo. Cadwallader; *Newburgh*, Captain Robinson. The tonnage of these vessels ranged from 17 to 45, one only exceeding that; the *Newburgh* being 72 tons. The *Cygnets* won the prize.

July 19, the great fire of 1845 began about daybreak in a warehouse on New Street. It was apparently well under control when a vast explosion occurred, by which several lives were lost; neighboring buildings were overthrown, and flames were communicated in every direction. In two hours 150 buildings were aflame, and before the devastation could be checked almost the whole district bounded by Broadway from below Stone Street to above Exchange Place, inclusive of a part of the west front above Morris Street, the fronts on Exchange Place to beyond Broad Street, the fronts on Broad Street down to Stone Street, and the fronts on Stone Street from there to Broadway were destroyed. The loss was computed at six million dollars, and this involved the failure of some of the most approved insurance companies. Nevertheless, rebuilding at once began; new buildings rising while yet the flames were playing among the mounds of ruin and the old materials to be cleared away were too hot to be taken in the bare hands of the workmen.

Telegraphic communication was established between New York and Philadelphia.

June 18, George W. Matsell was appointed Chief of the

Police. The number of policemen at this time was fixed at eight hundred, and the question of the further non-licensing of booths around the park for the evening and day of the Fourth was entertained by the Common Council, and negatived by a small majority.

August 10, arrived at the port the steamer *Great Britain*, called the "monster of the ocean," since she was 322 feet long, with a capacity of three thousand tons. The peculiar interest in her, however, was from the fact that she was a screw steamer, and built of iron.

Bowery Theatre rebuilt and opened.

Wm. C. H. Waddell in this year constructed a residence on Fifth Avenue, between Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth streets (where the "Brick Church," formerly located on Beekman Street and Park Row, now is), on the natural level of the ground, which was several feet above the city grade. While he was engaged in making the purchase of the plot of ground it is related that his wife, who accompanied him, rested under an apple tree by the wayside. He furnished his house with expensive elegance, and later (1846), as fancy-dress balls were essayed by several parties, Mrs. Waddell gave one which was followed by one of Mrs. Schermerhorn's; the guests being required to appear in the style of dress of the French Court of Louis XV.

The Almshouse at Bellevue, which was enlarged in 1818 by the purchase of adjoining land, was in this year removed to Blackwell's Island. The land that had been purchased by the Corporation for it was now sold; whereupon the owners of the land purchased by the Corporation claimed the money received by it for the sale, on the plea that the land had not been taken for public use, and consequently the Act of 1818, by which the land had been purchased, was unconstitutional. The Court decided adversely to the claimants, and the Court of Appeals affirmed the decision.

The existing law regarding the pilots of our harbor having been abolished by Act of Legislature, the opportunity was open to any one who either had the capacity or temerity to undertake piloting, and, as a very natural result, the Chamber of Commerce drafted a law having in purpose the arrest of the evil, in which it was provided there were to be three Commissioners to be appointed, one each by the Chamber, the Board of Marine Underwriters, and the Pilots; which provision was so much opposed by the pilots that they submitted a draft of a law. This controversy was finally settled by the passage of a law alike to that of the Chamber of Commerce. Congress having authorized any pilots who were citizens of New Jersey to act as such *via* Sandy Hook, a fierce rivalry and contention arose between them and those from the city; but after many years of contest, the two associations joined fellowship.

September 5, John B. Gough, a reformed inebriate and notorious lecturer on temperance, disappeared from home and friends, and on the 12th was found in a house in Walker Street, where he had lain drunk for the entire week.

October. The Olympic opened. "Don Cæsar de Bazan" was here produced for the first time in this country, a week earlier than at the Park. This was a very bright and varied season at the Olympic; burlesques and travesties, farces, comedies, and fairy pieces, were profusely offered until the house closed in May of the next year.

The population of the city in this month was ascertained to be 366,785.

September 15, the *Massachusetts*, built by the Messrs. Forbes of Massachusetts and one of the first sea-fitted merchantmen having a screw propeller, left for a southern voyage.

October. A Mr. Wm. L. Mackenzie published a book

which elicited much attention and comment, as it gave private correspondence, said to be surreptitiously obtained, to which that of John Van Buren, Benj. F. Butler (of New York), Jesse Hoyt, and many other well-known and prominent Democrats and officials, was added.

An association of dry goods merchants decided to construct a block of stores in William Street, between John and Fulton streets, with a view to remove their business there, which they effected, though but for a few years.

Spofford, Tileston & Co. concluded the contracts for constructing a line of steamers to ply, in the early spring, hence to Charleston, S. C., and back.

Gramercy Park, a part of the Gramercy farm, was defined and presented by Samuel B. Ruggles to the owners of the lots fronting thereon.

The steamer *Virginia*, of four hundred tons' burthen, which had been fitted by Jas. P. Allaire with engines, boilers, and the vertical water-wheels of E. T. Aldrich, the blades of which were submerged below the bottom of the hull, was experimented with; the projector of the essay having an agreement with a seafaring party here that, if the application was successful, he would pay for her and put her upon the route hence to Liverpool. The conditions of the agreement were neither fulfilled nor demanded.

1846. William Street, from Maiden Lane to Chatham, was widened, and the widening of Broadway from Twenty-fifth to Forty-fifth Street was continued.

February 14. A great gale occurring, ten vessels were stranded on Squan Beach, and from one of them one of the oldest and most respected pilots, of the name of Freeborn, was drowned.

February. Grace Church, Broadway corner of Tenth Street, being about completed, some of its pews were

sold in addition to a rent on the value of them; the prices ranging from twelve to fourteen hundred dollars, equal to from three to four dollars per Sunday.

February 24. In the previous year an association of gentlemen organized for the construction and operation of a racket court, and having obtained premises on Broadway, almost immediately above Niblo's Garden, constructed a court with the attendants' rooms and conveniences, and this day it was opened with a large and distinguished company of guests and their ladies. The entertainment was a *déjeuner*, music, and dancing.

On March 10 was laid the corner-stone of Calvary Church at Fourth Avenue and Twenty-first Street.

March 25. The public was surprised this day to learn that the magnificent packet ship *Henry Clay*, Captain Nye, of Grinnell, Minturn & Co.'s line of Liverpool packets, was ashore at Squan Beach, and particularly so, as neither weather nor the experience and uniform success of the captain seemed to justify the circumstance. On the 14th of the month following the vessel was floated, and brought up to the city, and in justice to her owners and builders it is cited that for twenty days, mostly in stormy weather, she lay "broadside to" on a beach, was hauled off, repaired, and refitted for efficient service.

So much for the ship, but as regards the captain, the case is different; and it is thus met: he had for a long period been in command of the same vessel, the *Independence*, and he was so cognizant of her speed when looking over her side that he rarely "logged" her. When he assumed command of the *Henry Clay*, a much larger vessel, it did not occur to him that her deck was higher than that of his former vessel, and that an estimate of the speed of the one would not apply to the other, as the higher an observer is above the water the less the apparent velocity. As a consequence of this neglect of consideration on his part, his estimate of the speed of his

vessel brought her up on the Jersey shore, when he thought she was off Long Island. The fact that such a vessel could be subjected to such a stress with but moderate damage is a striking proof of the excellent quality of ship-building work in our yards. And as for the speed of the ships: the *Rainbow*, belonging to Howland & Aspinwall, arrived at this port on April 17, completing thus two voyages to and from Canton within fourteen months.

At this date the Mexican war was imminent, and President Polk presently announced that a state of war actually existed, and called for men and money. Scarcely had Congress responded with the required grant when news was received of fighting, and of General Zachary Taylor's early victories. A new generation had come upon the stage of active life since we had been engaged in war, and all the intelligence from Mexico was received with breathless attention by our public.

The legislature ordered the assembling of a convention to submit to it a new charter for the city, to be voted upon at the State election in November, which, upon being submitted, was defeated by a very decisive vote.

May 21, being Ascension Day in this year, the new Trinity Church was consecrated with great solemnity. A long procession of bishops, clergy, and lay dignitaries of various degree marched to the church, where the consecration office was said by Bishop McCoskry, at that time in charge of the diocese. This scene is represented in a panel of one of the bronze doors opening from the south porch of the church. The first church on this site was begun in 1696, finished in 1697. The third (and present) building still remains, after half a century, the most harmoniously beautiful church in New York. See Chapter X for record of church.

June 1, the convention appointed to review and submit a new constitution for the State met, and when

the Constitution was completed and submitted to the people, it was adopted by a large majority. Essential and much discussed provisions of it were the election of our judges, instead of their appointment by the Governor and Senate, and the abolishment of property qualifications for the voting of white persons.

The new store of A. T. Stewart was completed in this year.

In September died James Swords, aged eighty-two, the latest surviving partner of the oldest booksellers' and publishers' firm in New York; and in the next month Abraham Ogden, at the age of seventy-one, president of the Orient Insurance Co., and a highly respected citizen.

November 16, the steamboat *Atlantic* from New London, bound here, encountered a severe gale from the northwest, and in a heavy swell the steampipe from her boilers to her steam-chest was ruptured and her engine became useless. An anchor was cast, but it fouled, and a second, a light one, being absurdly insufficient to hold her, she drifted eastward, and stranded on the north side of Fisher's Island. Captain Dustan and thirty of her passengers and crew were lost.

She was the "show" steamboat of her time. Frantic efforts were made to transfer heavier anchors to her from sailing craft, but the weather was too heavy to permit the success of these endeavors. After the steamer struck Fisher's Island, she took a list, just so that all through the night, while so many lives were being dashed out of existence on the heaped boulders of this point of the Island, her bell tolled regularly with each shock of the waves.

The faulty, if not criminal custom of equipping American steamers and steamboats with but one heavy (?) and one light anchor, and with short ranges of chain, was fatally illustrated in this case. But one heavy anchor, fouling or in bad holding-ground, is of no avail, and if it is

insufficient, it is rarely that the second and lighter will meet the deficiency.

In Europe a steamer would not be held to be seaworthy without both bower anchors being of equal and sufficient weight, supplemented by a stream-anchor and kedges;



HELL GATE FERRY

the anchor attached to a range of chain nearly twice that usually, if not universally, carried by our steamers.

In this year St. Luke's Hospital was instituted through the zealous labors of the Rev. Dr. W. A. Muhlenberg. Also, all property qualifications in connection with the right of political suffrage were abolished.

The Prison Association of New York was incorporated. Its objects, the improvement of the penal system, amelioration of the condition of prisoners, and the aiding of reformed convicts after their discharge.

CHAPTER XXII

1847-1848.—ANDREW H. MICKLE, 1847; WILLIAM V. BRADY, 1847-1848; AND WILLIAM F. HAVEMEYER, 1848, MAYORS

JANUARY 13, members of the Sketch Club (established in 1827), with a few of their friends invited to join them for the purpose, founded the Century, which has ever remained a club of peculiar distinction. For two years the Century occupied rooms at 495 Broadway, removing in 1849 to 435 Broome Street, and again in the next year to 575 Broadway. From May, 1852, it occupied the house No. 24 Clinton Place, until in the spring of 1857 it removed to its house No. 109 (old No. 42) East Fifteenth Street, remaining there till (1892) it took possession of the beautiful new house now occupied at No. 7 West Forty-third Street.

January 28, a party at Mr. Robert Ray's attracted all the fashion of the city and was the subject of remark, not only for the splendor of the entertainment, but because the new house was so far uptown. It stood at the corner of Twenty-eighth Street and Ninth Avenue, being the house lately removed (1894) from the place it had dignified with its fine proportions.

The enlargement of the Erie Canal was commenced in this year and completed in 1862, the cost of which was six times that of the original, at its opening in 1825; and up to 1856 reached \$7,143,759, or a total, to 1862, of \$52,491,915.74.

April. The old Richmond Hill Theatre was rebuilt and renamed the Greenwich.

In May Julia Dean appeared at the Bowery as *Julia* in "The Hunchback." She was a beautiful woman, modest, intelligent, painstaking, and deservedly popular.

February 7, died James Roosevelt, eighty-seven years of age, much respected; the son of Isaac, who was one of the original directors and president of the first of our banks.

In this month much activity was shown in the relief of the Irish sufferers from famine; a great meeting was held on the 16th at the Broadway Tabernacle, and by March 1 the Relief Committee had received more than fifty thousand dollars. Alexander T. Stewart chartered and furnished a ship loaded with provisions for the relief of the suffering people, and, if I mistake not, that munificent citizen, the late Eugene Kelly, did a like act.

News of General Taylor's striking victory of Buena Vista was received on March 31, and May 7 was ordered by the authorities as a day of rejoicing for this victory and the later capture of Vera Cruz by a combined bombardment of the Army and Navy, the former under General Scott, and the latter under Commodore Perry. This was a most brilliant *fête*; the city was thronged with visitors and seemed covered with flags, under which a great military procession took its way, greeted by the triumphant voice of cannon. A general illumination in the evening was witnessed by even greater crowds than had attended the daylight observances. Scarcely was this celebration over when news arrived of Scott's victory of Cerro Gordo, the rout of the Mexican army, and the flight of General Santa Anna; the capture of the Mexican general's wooden leg adding to the hilarity of our people over a success so great.

May 22, Stone Street was widened from Whitehall to Broad Street.

June 1, the steamer *Washington* left for Liverpool;

she was the first American steamship to cross the ocean in the mail and passenger service.

About the first of June a steamboat race occurred between the *Commodore Vanderbilt*, owned by him, and the *Oregon*, owned by George Law, from New York up the river to Croton Point, and return. The *Oregon* won, covering the distance of seventy-five miles in three hours and a quarter. The interest in this race was greater than any ever manifested here; far in advance of that shown in the races of the Albany Line boats or the *Highlander* and *Robert L. Stevens*; it was equal to that of the later contests between the *R. E. Lee* and *Natchez*, from New Orleans to St. Louis. In order to reduce the draught of the vessels they were

docked, the bottoms cleaned; furniture, ornaments, and all unnecessary articles were taken on shore; and previous to the day of the race the *Oregon's* inner bottom (that is, between her frames) was freed of water by sponges where it could not be reached by dippers. In unison with this regard of lessening of draught of water, the necessary supply of coal was carefully estimated; but in the case of the *Oregon* it fell short when near the end



STUYVESANT PEAR-TREE, NORTH-EAST
CORNER OF THIRTEENTH STREET AND
THIRD AVENUE

of the course, and every loose article that could be spared, together with some joinery, was sacrificed to feed the fires.

Commodore Vanderbilt was much disappointed; the loss of the money was not considered: it was the one who had defeated him. He bore his defeat manfully, however, but in relating to me how he was defeated he evinced his feeling. It was to him what Moscow in the Russian campaign was to Napoleon—his first defeat.

July 27, George Kirk, a slave who had absconded from his master in Georgia, upon being claimed as a fugitive, was taken before Judge Edmonds, who ordered his release. The assemblage of negroes on this occasion was without precedent; the streets leading to the Court-house were blocked by vociferous and excited crowds.

July 30, Christ Church in Ann Street burned and destroyed.

August 6. Peter G. Stuyvesant died, a man closely concerned with the best social life of New York, the representative of an enduring "Knickerbocker" family, and possessor of a great colonial estate. This reminds me that the Stuyvesant pear-tree, then and for years afterward standing at the north-east corner of Third Avenue and Thirteenth Street, had reached the age of two hundred years in May, and therefore became an object of perhaps peculiar regard, though it had long been viewed as an interesting relic. This tree was brought from Holland by Governor Stuyvesant and planted with his own hands on his farm, in the place where it stood until its lamented fall. About 1835 it was protected by a stout wooden railing, which afterward gave place to one of iron, in which condition the venerable tree will be well remembered by many of my readers, for it flourished at least so lately as the year 1867.

In mid-September arrived news of General Scott's victory of Cherubusco, the first in the series of his suc-

cesses under the walls of the City of Mexico, gained against enormous odds of numbers. The public excitement over the bulletins was very great and perhaps specially in New York, many of whose sons were with Scott's army.

September 18, in the morning the Bowery Theatre was wholly consumed by fire. Gabriel Ravel's benefit was announced for the evening—another instance of the apparent connection between benefits and fires.

September 25, died Major William Popham, aged ninety-five, last surviving original member of the Society of the Cincinnati, a man who had served his country well, and whose person and gentle, amiable character were long regarded with affectionate veneration by his fellow-citizens of the town which he had seen to increase from a village of perhaps twelve thousand inhabitants to a city of near half-a-million.

October 19, the corner-stone of a monument of Washington was laid in Hamilton Square on Lenox Hill; but the monument never was raised.

The Hamburg-American Packet Co., hence to Hamburg, was established.

The Twenty-seventh Regiment of State militia was reorganized as the Seventh.

At the end of October came intelligence of the victories of Molino del Rey and Chapultepec, and General Scott's triumphant entry into the City of Mexico. Besides the personal interest in the fortunes of individuals in our army this news was most important in the general or political sense, bringing in near view the close of the war, which in fact was speedily ended thereafter; the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo being signed on February 2, next ensuing.

New York was very deeply concerned in the conduct of this war. It was a New Yorker, Commodore John Drake Sloat, who with his ship outraced the British and

insured our occupation of California by raising the American flag at Monterey. General William J. Worth was a mainstay of General Scott through all of his brilliant campaign. The monument now standing opposite the west side of Madison Square records his deeds. General John E. Wool, after serving in the field during the earlier part of the war, was afterward most efficient in forwarding troops. He sent twelve thousand men, fully equipped, within six weeks. Philip Kearny, a native of this city, was the first man to enter the gates of the City of Mexico, and in the list of those most famed for gallant conduct in action were the names of Hamilton, Schuyler, Morris, Thorn, Graham, and others of New York's leading families.

At the end of this year the managers of the Cunard Line found it necessary to abandon their purpose of making Boston their sole American port, and began to send half of their ships to New York. A meeting of merchants was convened for the purpose of giving a welcome to the commander of the *Hibernia*, the first Cunarder in the New York service.

In 1843 the *Hibernia* had been added to the line, and in 1845 the *Cambria*. In 1847 the British Government required a double service and increased the compensation to £173,340 sterling per annum. To comply with this requirement four new steamers were built, viz.: *America*, *Niagara*, *Canada*, and *Europa*, in 1850 they were followed by the *Asia* and in 1852 by the *Arabia*, all of which from the first to the last, had been and were side-wheelers. In the latter part of the year four iron screw-propeller vessels were added, viz.: *Australian*, *Sydney*, *Andes*, and *Alps*, they being the first fitted with accommodations for emigrants. In 1856 the company responded to the prejudice of its patrons and constructed the side-wheeler *Persia*; subsequently to this the *Scotia* was built, which vessel reduced the passage

between Liverpool and this port to eight days and twenty-two hours. As many saloon passengers now leave Liverpool in one week of an autumn month as were carried in the whole of the first year of the operation of the line.

An event then of concern to many New Yorkers was the reduction at this time of the fixed term of service for (volunteer) firemen from seven to five years. In 1816 a period of service had been first established, to allow to the firemen exemption from jury and military duty. The required term at first was ten years. In 1829 it was reduced to seven years, and now the further reduction to five years met with general approval, for this exemption was the only substantial reward received for their difficult and valuable service by the rank and file, though the chief engineer of the department received a salary, and for a few years his assistants also were paid.

The German Liederkranz was founded in this year and still flourishes in great strength, though having thrown off, by a process of fision, the equally important Arion Society. It maintains upon its roll the names of many of our native citizens.

Plans for widening Broadway from Forty-fifth to Seventy-first streets were submitted on May 5 of this year, and on December 11 the scheme for widening the same street just above its junction with Fifth Avenue (where the Worth monument stands).

The New York Hotel at 721 Broadway, between Washington and Waverly places, was opened by S. B. Monnot. The building of this hotel, at the time so far up-town, was held by the pessimists to be a very wild and perilous undertaking. Monnot came to the country as a cook, and having realized a small capital, he embarked in this enterprise, which proved to be very successful. Upon his retirement the house was leased and operated by Hiram Cranston.

This year was a time of considerable and varied interest in stage affairs. Palmo's Opera House presented the ingenious Samuel Lover (author of "Handy Andy"), in entertainments of songs, anecdotes, and recitations, and followed with a new opera company, which included Signorina Clotilda Barili, half-sister to Adelina Patti, a charming young woman, who was esteemed a "divinity" by the young men of our society, and who married in the next year a son of Colonel Thorne. It was nearing its end as a home of opera, and in the next year gave way to the new Astor Place enterprise and became Burton's Theatre.

At the Bowery Mary Taylor, from the Olympic, began her first engagement as a star in New York, in January, becoming a very general favorite.

August. The old manager Simpson opened the Park for what proved to be his last season, with an English version of "Linda," in which appeared Mme. Anna Bishop, then alike beautiful and fascinating. She was the wife of Sir Henry Bishop, the composer.

Castle Garden was opened at the end of June with a good dramatic company. The Havana Opera Company appeared here in the middle of August, playing on alternate nights, and thus continued for a month.

September 27. The Broadway Theatre, between Pearl and Anthony (Worth) streets, opened with the "School for Scandal" and "Used Up"; Henry Wallack in the part of *Sir Peter Teazle*, his first appearance in New York for seven years. Very notable is the *Sir Charles Coldstream* of this evening, for it was the *début* in this country of "Mr. Lester," as the housebills announced, in other words John Lester Wallack, who thus began his long career in New York.

November. In this year was built the Astor Place Opera House, mournfully famous for events happening there not long after. This was a delightful theatre, con-

taining about 1800 seats (700 of them in the gallery). Max Maretzek said of it that "every-body could see, and what is of greater consequence, could be seen. Never, perhaps, was any theatre built that afforded a better opportunity for the display of dress." The house was opened on the 22d, with "Ernani."

December 12 died Chancellor James Kent, at the age of eighty-four, a man most eminent for the just respect and affection of his fellows. His funeral, from Calvary Church on December 15, became a great public function, being attended by the Common Council, the members of the bar in a body, and a multitudinous company of citizens. Flags were at half-mast on the public buildings and the shipping in the harbor.

A day or two after another old and respected citizen, Peter A. Mesier, died suddenly at seventy-four.

December 16. There was introduced here a corps of *danseuses*, known as the *Viennoise*, some eighty or more in number; they made their *début* at the Park Theatre. Their performances were of a character and style wholly different from any thing of the kind we had ever seen, and they were well patronized; but for a short period only, as their exhibitions were too uniform in their character.

The volume of ship-building in this city for the year was 39,918 tons launched and 29,870 in process of construction on the stocks, employing 2300 workmen.

1848. The inmates of the Almshouse at Bellevue were transferred to the new buildings on Blackwell's Island.

The New York and Erie Railroad was completed to Port Jervis, N. Y., on January 6.

January 20, the body of a female, upon being disinterred from a grave in the German Cemetery seventeen years after interment, was found to be perfect in form and in appearance.

March 7, Henry Clay visited New York as the guest of

the Mayor and Corporation. He was received at Castle Garden by his entertainers and a great concourse of citizens. The next day he attended the impressive ceremonies with which New York received the body of John Quincy Adams, who had died on February 23, after a paralytic seizure on February 21, while in his seat at the Capitol, engaged in the discharge of duty. It was said that this funeral observance was shared by the largest assemblage of people which ever had gathered in New York. Mr. Clay remained in town for several days, being the centre of many gatherings, and the recipient of honors unwonted and sometimes inconvenient, since crowds attended wherever he was expected to be found.

March 29, John Jacob Astor died, aged eighty-four, leaving, perhaps, the greatest fortune then existing in the country, and certainly the greatest in "quick assets"; the whole of it acquired by his own diligence and sagacity. His funeral was on April 1, from the house of his son William B., in Lafayette Place. By bequest of four hundred thousand dollars in Mr. Astor's will, the Astor Library was founded. This idea he had adopted in 1838, and in March, 1842, had appointed Dr. Cogswell to be Librarian. The Library was incorporated January 13, 1849.

February 10, at the Olympic Theatre, Chanfrau first appeared as *Mose*, the Bowery b'hoy, in a play written by Baker, the prompter, named "New York in 1848." Rewritten and enlarged, and renamed "A Glance at New York," it ran for seventy nights. Mary Taylor as *Lize* became very famous.

April 2, occurred one of the many tragical incidents in the adventurous experience of the New York Fire Department. Fire broke out in a sugar-house in Duane Street, and George Kerr, an assistant engineer, and Henry Fargis, assistant foreman of Engine 38, while in the discharge of duty were killed under a falling wall,

which severely injured several others of the force. Kerr and Fargis were buried in Greenwood by the Firemen's Monument Association, which had been erected after a design by Mr. Robert E. Launitz.

May 12, Harlem Railroad opened to Croton Falls.

May 26. Fire destroyed the stables of Kipp & Brown, stage proprietors, at Ninth Avenue and Twenty-sixth Street, consuming 27 stages and 130 horses.

April 11, Schumann's "Paradise and the Peri" was first given in this country, with a chorus of 120 and orchestra of 60, I think under Mr. Henry C. Timm. Mr. Timm produced Rossini's "Stabat Mater," also for the first time in America, at about this date.

April 12, the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. was incorporated, but its steamers were not operated from this city until the departure of the *Henry Chauncey* to Colon on November 1, 1865.

In May Major-general Winfield Scott was received by the city authorities and an eager crowd enthusiastic over the hero of the march to Mexico. There had been talk of his nomination by the Whigs for the Presidency (as indeed happened in 1852). The convention on June 9 at Philadelphia preferred General Taylor, as a more "available" candidate than either Scott or Henry Clay, whose nomination was warmly urged, but who met on this occasion his final disappointment.

June 5 Simpson was obliged to give up, and abandoned the Park Theatre, where for thirty-eight years he had been stage-manager or manager. He had made great sums, but had lost them, and sold out for an annuity of fifteen hundred dollars, but was so affected by his misfortunes that he died almost immediately. He was a man of so much importance in his vocation that after his death a public meeting was called by the Mayor at the Astor House, at which suitable resolutions were adopted, characterizing the departed manager as an "exemplary

instance of probity, usefulness, and virtue," and suggesting benefits for his family—a suggestion that resulted in a very liberal series. The "School for Scandal" was given with a cast including Placide, Blake, Burton, Barrett, Richings, Walcot, Henry Hunt, etc.—a most remarkable conjunction. The series of the Simpson benefits about this date included a reading of "Hamlet" by Macready, a concert at the Astor Place Opera House, and performances at Burton's, the National, and the Olympic.

Hamblin, the Bowery manager, undertook to revive the glories of the old Park, and this fall reopened that theatre, very extensively remodelled, improved, and beautified. Even in the pit there were cushioned seats, in place of the ancient boards covered with canvas.

In June a benefit was given at the Broadway Theatre for Kipp & Brown, sufferers from the fire hereinbefore noted, and one for the widow and children of Samuel Pray, an *attaché* of the house who had been strangely killed through the falling upon him of the heavy curtain-roller. Two of Pray's three daughters became Mrs. Barney Williams and Mrs. W. J. Florence.

July 10, the *Keying*, a Chinese junk, arrived here, being the first and only one up to this time (1895) that ever reached America.

The New York daily *Tribune* (Horace Greeley) joined in the popular cry regarding the constructive mileage of members of Congress. In illustration, when a Congress ceased to exist, as at 12 M. on the alternate 4th of March, and the President had convened a session of the Senate for Executive action upon his nominations for office, some Senators would claim mileage for their constructive journey home, and their return again in one day, added to which, it was also charged that members did not take the shortest routes to and from Washington, and this *exposé* evolved some epithets regarding Greeley's

action which were not in any wise laudatory or complimentary to him, but they should have been.

In September news reached New York of the discovery of gold in California, and thus began one of the most fascinating chapters of our history. In three years California was transformed from a wild region, containing about fifteen thousand white population, into a State with more than a quarter of a million people. So sudden were the discovery of gold and its effects that in a *Gazetteer*, or *Geographical Dictionary*, bearing a publisher's date of 1852, may be found, in the article "California," the amusing line: "So far as known, minerals are of very little importance."

In this month an event happened of great consequence in the musical history of New York and the entire country. The *Germania Orchestra* arrived here on September 25, and gave its first concert at the *Astor Place Opera House* on October 5. Our public was little schooled in orchestra music, and with small knowledge felt little interest; the concerts therefore showed bad pecuniary results. The orchestra next tried Philadelphia, but there utterly failed, and disbanded. Happening, however, to be called to Washington for a performance, they rallied for that purpose and met with a reception so different that they ventured to test Baltimore. Being very successful there, they attempted Boston, where they excited much enthusiasm. In consequence of such encouragement, the orchestra resumed its original purpose, and went concertizing through the States for some years; becoming famous. The company disbanded in September, 1854, its members applying themselves to the private exercise of their profession. By those subsequent labors, as well as by their concerts, the members of the *Germania* greatly accelerated the progress of musical culture in America, and deserve a grateful remembrance.

October 3, Broadway was ordered to be widened from Twenty-first to Twenty-fifth Street.

July 10, Palmo's Opera House, from which the lyric drama had retreated uptown, was opened as Burton's Theatre, with John Brougham as stage-manager. The venture was not instantly successful, but on the 24th some public attention was secured by the production of "Dombey and Son" for the first time on any stage, in John Brougham's version; Brougham doubling *Bunsby* and *Bagstock*, Mrs. Brougham playing *Susan Nipper*, and Burton *Cap'n Cuttle*.

In October Maurice Power, son of the great Tyrone, appeared and disappointed expectation.

November 18, another fire in omnibus stables destroyed the property of the Murphys at Third Avenue and Twenty-seventh Street; consuming 150 horses, 25 stages, and 25 sleighs, and involving two churches, a parsonage, and a public school. While this was in progress a new alarm was caused by fire at the Bowery and Broome Street; a fresh conflagration then broke out at Thirty-fifth Street and Eighth Avenue. These were all burning when the distracted firemen were further called to burning stables in West Seventeenth Street. The town seemed to be full of threatening flame and light.

December 11, Hamblin appeared as *Richard*, the play being given with the rich Kean appointments. It was the last tragedy ever seen at the Park. December 16, just before opening the doors for Mme. Monplaisir's benefit (again the ill omen), a hanging file of playbills blown against a lighted gas-jet communicated fire to the scenery, and within an hour the house was entirely burned out. It never was rebuilt. The first performance at the Park was on January 29, 1798.

This year witnessed the rise of modern "spiritualism," through the delusion or deception then known as "the Rochester Knockings." These arose in a family named

Fox, then living in Wayne County, but afterward removing to Rochester, N. Y., as their fame extended, in order to seek a wider field for their mysterious knocks on walls or floors, table-tipping, etc. In Rochester the Fox girls gave public exhibitions, and in 1856 appeared before audiences in this city. In the same year the late D. D. Home (Hume) first appeared as a "medium," being then seventeen years old. Afterward he visited Europe and produced "manifestations" before several crowned heads. Mediums then and afterward multiplied, and a new sect of Spiritualist believers sprang up. Many strange things were performed by the mediums, some of which were proved indubitably to be fraudulent impositions. Men of science have investigated the mediumistic manifestations with the conclusion that, after all abatement, a residuum might remain, which must be attributed to some force not yet understood. The mediums never have discovered or declared any new truth of science to the world, and if they are prompted by spirits, then it is certain that the spirits have made very little advance on their earthly conditions.

The election of November, resulting in the choice of General Taylor for President, was a sweeping victory for the Whigs—and their last.

December 28, the New York and Erie Railroad was opened to Binghamton, N. Y. In this year, Woodhull & Minturn retiring from business, their ships were purchased by Grinnell, Minturn & Co.

About this period flourished Henry C. Marx; more generally known as "Dandy Marx," and so designated from his style of dress and manner of wearing it—added to a *waxed* moustache, the first essay of the kind that ever was seen on Broadway or elsewhere in this city. He originated and commanded a company of Hussars; and despite his apparent effeminacy, he was manly, bold, and generous. He left three sisters, who resided at 673 Broadway.

In a file of an old newspaper, I noticed the case of one having been duped by a swindle at that time and for some years after known as the "pocket-book drop," then a favorite trick; but of late years fallen into disuse, probably because the "sawdust game" presents a more extensive field of operation and more profitable, with less risk; inasmuch as the victim, being just as much a culprit as the operator, unless of so low a grade that he prefers his money to his character, naturally forbears presenting a complaint that manifests his own criminality.

At this period the fashion of negro minstrelsy must have been about at its height as a popular influence. This form of amusement originated with "Dan" Emmett and some of his friends as early as 1842; the first public performances being those of the "Virginia Minstrels" in 1843, hereinbefore mentioned. They were an utter novelty, and caught the popular fancy. Buckley's "New Orleans Serenaders" were organized in the same year (1843), and by 1845 or 1846 many travelling troupes were on the road, carrying the new diversion even to the smaller towns. One of these that I remember included in its number an actual negro, who played the bones with great skill; and indeed the rage for negro delineation very largely infected the blacks, so that eventually several companies of them were formed, which went about the country engaged in somewhat extravagant imitation of themselves.

E. P. Christy did more than any other man to regularize this entertainment and give it the form which became characteristic, and his company was easily at the head of all those extant at that day. "Christy's Minstrels" appeared early in 1846, at Mechanics' Hall, No. 472 Broadway, and remained there for nine years, becoming famous throughout the country. His "star" was George Christy (Harrington), who, I believe, had for a time a company of his own at 444 Broadway, which became

another noted seat of minstrelsy. After E. P. Christy's retirement, George Christy managed both companies; George and "Billy" Birch were the "bones" of the two troupes. I knew Birch's father, who spelled the name Burch—a queer old man, of much dry wit; he thought that his son was the greatest living American. "Billy" afterward suffered shipwreck, I think, in the loss of the *Central America*, and it was related that while he was floating on a hencoop or some such convenient and useful object, tenderly bearing his canary-bird, he came upon one of his friends tossing in the sea, to whom he called to "come in out of the wet," thereupon helping him to a place on the hencoop. Birch's after career with his San Francisco Minstrels is known to very modern readers.

Such readers, however, will fail to understand the extent and power of the minstrel "craze" when it was at its height. The reach of its influence was very wide. New "negro songs" were sent out almost daily from the publishers' presses and were sung all over the land. I do not know whether Stephen C. Foster had yet begun to write his songs, but many of those then issued were of singular sweetness, and the use of them was almost universal. Households that had amused themselves with singing English opera (which had been greatly in fashion) and English glees and part-songs, turned to the new melodies. Besides the original compositions, a crowd of parodies appeared: "The Mellow Horn" became "The Yellow Corn"; Balfe's air, "I Dreamt that I Dwelt in Marble Halls," was Africanized into "I Dreamt that I Dwelt in Hotel Walls," etc., etc. Many of the earliest minstrel melodies are still in use; it is but this winter (1895) that I heard a great company of gentlemen singing "Dearest Mae." Indeed the whole "movement" lasted long; "Bryant's Minstrels" were organized so lately as 1857, and remained before the public till the

death of "Dan" Bryant, about twenty years ago. Other troupes, besides those here mentioned,—Campbell's, Wood's, Kelly & Leon's, Morris Bros.', Pell & Trowbridge's, and many more,—flourished greatly during the reign of negro minstrelsy.

The New York and Harlem Railroad was opened to Dover in this year.

Comparatively, it is but a few years since the Venetian style of awnings and shades has been introduced. Until an ordinance was passed regulating the height of awning-posts, and later one requiring their removal, awnings extended from buildings and were attached to the posts which were set inside the curb.

It was in this year that a local company was organized and the steamers *Washington* and *Hermann* were constructed for service between this city and Southampton, England, and bearing the United States Mail. Their design in both model, power, and rig was not conducive to high speed, nor was the construction of their engines such as to maintain the success that was presaged for them, either at home or abroad, and the service was continued but for a very few years.

Mr. E. K. Collins had essayed from as early as 1840 to induce the Government to give a line of vessels a sufficient subsidy for the bi-weekly transportation of the mails between this port and Liverpool, but it was not until this year that by the joint aid of Albert G. Sloo, who was seeking to obtain a subsidy for a line of steamers hence to California *via* the Isthmus route, and Arnold Harris, who was seeking for one to Astoria and to Chagres *via* Havana, that success was obtained; the Government granting to Collins and his associates, for a term of ten years, the compensation of three hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars per annum; the service to consist of two round trips a month between New York and Liverpool during eight months of the year,

and one round trip a month during the remaining four months of the year. The first sailing under the contract occurred on the 27th of April.

The "Sloo contract" was also for a term of ten years, at the compensation of two hundred and ninety thousand dollars per annum; the service to consist of two round trips a month between New York and New Orleans, touching at Charleston, Savannah, and Havana; and in connection therewith, two round trips per month between Havana and Chagres. The first sailing under the contract occurred in December.

A contract was also entered into with Mr. Arnold Harris for the conveyance of mails from Panama to Astoria, Ore., to connect with the service from Havana to Chagres. This contract required a round trip once a month for a term of ten years from the 1st of October, 1848, for a compensation of one hundred and ninety-nine thousand dollars per annum.

The contracts in question were modified in various ways during the term of ten years; but the original terms were as given above.

The Collins Line (the New York and Liverpool line of steamers) was established in this year by the construction of the steamers *Atlantic* and *Pacific*.



BEEKMAN GREENHOUSE

CHAPTER XXIII

1849, 1850, 1851.—WILLIAM F. HAVEMEYER, 1849; CALEB S. WOODHULL, 1850; AND AMBROSE C. KINGSLAND, 1851, MAYORS

1849. THE California fever reached its height in this "Argonaut year," and the name of "Forty-niners" has become a familiar title of honor applied to the early emigrants to that State. It would be hard to convey to younger readers an adequate notion of the degree of popular excitement over the gold discoveries of the new empire, and of the extent to which it spread throughout the older parts of the country. Every seaport of consequence despatched vessels for San Francisco; ninety-nine of them, transporting 5719 passengers, left here *via* Panama, Nicaragua, Darien, and other routes, and bearing such merchandise as might be thought fit for a market, and many of the best as well as of the worst of its young men, all eager in the search for wealth. Associations of men in all sections of the country organized as "Mining companies," and rushed for San Francisco in every available manner. The Pacific Mail Co. advanced the rate of passage by its steamers, and every machine shop in the city was employed in the manufacture of quartz-crushers to be transported to the mines. Of course New York was in the front of this enterprise, and the scene of the most animated interest. The events of that time seem yet like romance even to one who lived through them. Mercantile adventure with California was then most uncertain, owing to the infrequent and slow communication and consequent lack of sufficient

information. With the whole commercial world seeking the new market, and no advices as to stocks on hand in San Francisco or on the way thither, shipments were in many cases pure speculation; sometimes resulting in heavy loss and sometimes in enormous profit. Merely by way of illustration I may relate the amusing tale of one shipper who, from such calculation or guesswork as circumstances allowed, concluded that some commodity—I believe it was flour—would be in demand when his ship should reach San Francisco, and loaded for that port accordingly. When loading, he happened to find obtainable a great quantity of damaged dried beans, which he got for a trifle, or perhaps for nothing but the cost of cartage, and used for dunnage of his cargo. On arrival at San Francisco it was found that other shippers had made similar calculations and the harbor was full of newly arrived flour, for which no price could be obtained. But there were no beans to be had, with a keen demand for them, and our friend threw away his cargo, and out of the dunnage realized a handsome profit on the whole adventure. Such were the chances of California commerce in 1849.

In January Burton's Theatre presented a dramatization by Brougham of Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," which ran only for a week, though Caroline Chapman as *Becky Sharp* was greatly admired. In April a piece entitled "Socialism," in which Brougham, as *Fourier Grisley*, made up in close imitation of Horace Greeley, attracted amused houses for three weeks.

At the National Theatre in April, at Mrs. Isherwood's benefit, Chanfrau played *Mose* for the three hundredth time.

February 1, the Collins Line steamers *Atlantic* and *Pacific* were launched.

In March Mrs. Fanny Kemble Butler began her readings from Shakspeare, which became popular almost beyond

belief at the present day. The place where she read (the Stuyvesant Institution, in Broadway) was thronged on every occasion, hours before the time set for the reading, though Mrs. Butler's appearances were four times a week.

The defeat of the charter submitted in 1846 being generally regretted, and the existing one being held insufficient in some important provisions, it was decided to apply to the legislature for some amendments to it, in preference to risking the submission of a new one, but on April 2 a charter was enacted to take effect on June 1; subject, however, to the approval of the people, who at the ensuing election approved of it. The day of municipal election was changed from April to November, the term of offices to begin on the 1st of January ensuing, and the term of office of the mayor extended to two years, and the system of Departments—as the Police, Finance, Almshouse, Law, Croton Aqueduct, Fire, Repairs and Supplies—was established, the heads of which (save the head of the Croton Aqueduct Board) were to be elected by the people.

April 15. From December 14 of the previous year to this date, or a period of four months, one hundred and five steamers and sailing vessels left this port for San Francisco, either *via* the Isthmus or around Cape Horn.

Advices from abroad, *via* Liverpool, were borne by the Cunard steamer, *via* Halifax and St. John, N. B., and from thence by telegraph here.

May 7, Macready, the tragedian, began an engagement at the Astor Place Opera House under Hackett & Niblo, with *Macbeth*. Edwin Forrest, then playing at the Broadway Theatre, announced the same part for the same evening. This did not tend to diminish the bitterness of Forrest's partisans, who resented any rivalry of their favorite, and whose feelings were inflamed by reports that during a recent visit to England Forrest had

been treated in an offensive manner through the envious influence of Macready. They therefore organized a party to attend the Opera House performance, raise a riot, and drive Macready from the stage. This was successfully accomplished; so soon as the actor appeared abusive cries rose from different parts of the house and a shower of unsavory missiles, as rotten eggs and assafoetida, was cast upon the stage. There were groans, hisses, cheers, yells, screams, "Off, off!" "Go on, go on, go on!" and the display of a banner with "You have ever proved a liar," "No apology, it is the truth," the singing of the song of the witches, "Where's Macready?" and in the continuing and increasing uproar the performance was suspended at the end of the third act, and the audience dispersed.

Macready would have resigned his engagement, but was persuaded to continue by the urgency of an "open letter" addressed to him by some of our worthiest and prominent citizens, deploring the riot, and praying him to remain, and give the better class of the community a chance to manifest their approval of him and their detestation of the riotous proceedings. He assented, and Thursday, May 10, was chosen for his reappearance. Forrest posted the same play for the same night; his adherents issued notices, organized meetings, published an exceptionally inflammatory card in the *Herald*, and deputed persons to buy tickets and take possession of the Opera House on the night of the performance. Counter-preparations were made, however; the sale of tickets was refused to persons of suspicious appearance, the house was guarded inside and out by three hundred police, those offering to enter it were carefully scrutinized, and the doors and windows were closed and barred after the audience had assembled. The house was filled with an audience of an exceptionally high character, in general, but a few of the disaffected had got in, and so

soon as Macready had appeared he was hooted by several persons, evidently and purposely located in different parts of the auditorium, in order to give a general character to the manifestation. This was followed by missiles, thrown at him on the stage. Fear and confusion prevailed in the audience until the police arrested the ringleaders and measurably succeeded in restoring confidence, when the performance was permitted to proceed.

When the mob of some thousands, gathered in Astor Place, learned what had occurred in the theatre, it made a general attack upon the police, and overcoming them, endeavoring to storm the building by battering in the doors and windows. At this juncture the Seventh Regiment, which had been held in waiting, marched up at nine o'clock, preceded by cavalry, cleared Eighth Street, and occupied Astor Place. The horse troop, however, was repulsed by an attack from the mob, the horses becoming unmanageable in the wild scene, and Colonel Duryee then ordered his men to load with ball. The Riot Act was proclaimed by Recorder Tallmadge, but without effect. Whereupon Sheriff John J. V. Westervelt, adopting the ineffective, cruel, inexplicable, and unfortunate manner of proceeding so common in such cases, ordered a volley over the heads of the people. This killed and injured inoffensive men and women in adjacent windows, and both angered and encouraged the mob, which replied with a fierce attack on the regiment. A well-aimed volley followed, and the mob retreated. Astor Place was then picketed, but the restoration of order was only temporary, for the mob shortly returned from Third Avenue and attacked with paving-stones. A third volley scattered them finally; killing seventeen and wounding twenty-six.

In this affair one hundred and forty-one of the Seventh and many of the police were wounded, thirty-four of the

mob and spectators were killed in all, and a great, though unknown, number injured. Macready escaped by a rear door of the Opera House and was secreted for two days in Judge Emmet's house, whence he proceeded in disguise to Boston on the day before the sailing of the steamer from that port on which he took passage for England. Great praise was given to the Seventh Regiment for its self-control and gallant conduct under orders, although on the next day a meeting of the baser sort was held in the Park, where inflammatory speeches contrary to law and order were made. These, however, issued in no action; or at least in nothing more than the nickname of "Massacre" Place Opera House.

An investigation of the matter revealed the fact that tickets to the theatre were gratuitously distributed to persons who were afterward engaged in the riot, by some of the parties who signed the card calling upon Macready to fill his engagement.

E. Z. C. Judson, who had gained much notoriety as a writer of sensational stories, known as "yellow-covered," over the signature of "Ned Buntline," took a conspicuous part in this riot, was arrested, convicted, sentenced to one year's imprisonment and a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars.

The supporters of Forrest had been drawn to the scene of the riot by the effect of handbills, in which statements were made designed to excite them.

Hamblin appeared at the Bowery Theatre at this time, and in the same character, to an exceptionally crowded house.

May 8, the New York Slave Vigilance Committee met in the church, corner of Prince and Marion streets. The chairman reported that fully two hundred runaway slaves had been provided for. Frederick Douglass was then introduced, and he related his escape from slavery.

May 18, the steamboat *Empire*, hence to Albany, in

being directed across the bow of a schooner beating down the river, was run into and sunk, with the loss of four of her passengers.

The administration of the Department of Charities and Correction was so generally commented upon and censured that the legislature transferred its direction to a board of ten governors.

The steamer *United States*, built by Wm. H. Webb for Chas. H. Marshall & Co's. line to Liverpool, entered upon service in this year.

"The Trustees of the Astor Library" incorporated, being the library founded by the will of John Jacob Astor as a public library, for general use, accessible at all regular hours and free of expense to persons resorting thereto; later Wm. B. Astor doubled the endowment of his father, "On the understanding that it was the settled and unchangeable basis of administering the library that its contents should remain in the library rooms for use by readers, and should not be lent or allowed to be taken from the rooms."

It received a third endowment from John Jacob Astor, grandson of the founder, making the total amount two million dollars. The number of volumes at this period (1894) is about two hundred and sixty thousand.

By the new postage law, the domestic postage on single letters (half-ounce) was, for less than three hundred miles, 5 cents; over that, 10 cents. Foreign (half-ounce), 24 cents.

New York suffered in this year a severe visitation of cholera, which appeared first in the Five Points on May 14, and spread rapidly. The public-school buildings were turned into hospitals, and in them alone one thousand and twenty-one deaths from cholera occurred; the total mortality from the disease in this year being about five thousand.

August 13 died Albert Gallatin, aged eighty-eight,

whose accomplishments and public services are too well known to require record here.

The Bowery Theatre opened early in September, under Hamblin. Lester Wallack made his first appearance here as *Don César de Bazan* a fortnight later. In November was produced the "The Three Guardsmen," adapted by him from Dumas, which obtained a very great success, holding the stage for thirty-four consecutive nights. J. W. Wallack, Jr., played *Athos*; John Gilbert, *Porthos*, and Lester Wallack, *D'Artagnan*. On Christmas Eve the sequel, called "The Four Musketeers, or Ten Years After," dramatized by the same hand, ran for three weeks, and on January 14 (1850), an adaptation of Eugène Sue's "Wandering Jew" was played for a month.

September 25, the Hudson River Railroad obtained permission to operate a road from Spuyten Duyvil to West and Canal streets, to run a locomotive south as far as Thirtieth Street, and a "dummy engine" between that and Chambers Street; but it was enjoined from running a stated passenger train below Thirty-second Street. This later station was maintained until 1865, when it was transferred to Thirtieth Street.

September 17, the New York Harmonic Society was founded by merging the Sacred Music Society, the Vocal Society, and perhaps one or two other organizations.

October 10, the New York and Erie Railroad was opened to Elmira, N. Y.

This year witnessed the disappearance of the Richmond Hill Theatre. This house, on Varick Street, of which I have heretofore given some history, being bought by John Jacob Astor, was converted into a theatre and opened in November, 1831, with "The Road to Ruin," the prologue written by Halleck. It continued, as here related, with varying fortunes and reputation—at one time the home of opera, as the New York Opera House, until it was taken down in this year.

By this time the steady advance of the dinner hour had progressed so far that on very formal occasions it was as late as the usual family hour of to-day, seven o'clock.

Francis L. Waddell, a brother of William C. H. Waddell, and known as "Frank," was a widely known character; he married a daughter of the late Thomas H. Smith, who had been the leading tea importer of the United States, and in this year visiting Washington, we renewed what had been a school-boy acquaintance. There was a *sui generis* in his manner, and piquancy in his conversation, added to humor and wit, that rendered him very agreeable company; so much so that, at the United States Hotel at Saratoga, where he usually resorted in the summer season, he was a welcome guest of the proprietor, who held that he gained more by his company than the cost of it. He not only wrote good poetry, but his *Salus populi suprema lex*, as an introduction to his eulogy on Dr. Horne, will never be forgotten by those who heard it.

In this year Mrs. A. J. Bloomer of Homer, N. Y., issued a paper advocating woman suffrage, and also designed a costume for women, the salient features of which were pantaloons of a light texture, the skirt of the dress extending just below the knees, and a sombrero for the head. The *ensemble* was known as the Bloomer dress; it was adopted for a time and to a moderate extent, chiefly in rural districts, and excited much comment both in this country and Europe. It chanced that, as these lines are written (January, 1895), we observe the news of Mrs. Bloomer's recent death. She was a quiet, domestic, religious woman.

December 10, Ellen and Kate Bateman, aged four and six years, made their first appearance in New York at the Broadway Theatre in tragedy and comedy. The acting of these children displayed almost incredible intelligence, and they were so different from the usual "infant

wonder" class that the judicious did not grieve to see their impersonations of *Shylock*, *Richard III.*, *Richmond*, *Portia*, *Lady Macbeth*, etc. They were daughters of H. L. Bateman, then an actor.

1850. Even so late as this date the northern boundary of New York could not be placed above Thirty-fourth Street, with many open spaces below that line. Bloomingdale, Manhattanville, Yorkville, and Harlem were still remote and isolated villages. But the city continued its rapid growth, fully meeting in this regard the most sanguine expectations. The prices of real estate, however, were very modest as compared with those of to-day; thus, in January of this year Mr. Henry C. DeRham bought from the heirs of Henry Brevoort the house and land, corner of Ninth Street and Fifth Avenue, ninety-two feet on the avenue and one hundred and twenty-six feet deep, for fifty-seven thousand dollars.

Nicholas Saltus ("Nick"), before referred to in these *Reminiscences*, died on January 25, aged seventy years.

January 28. From the ship-yard of Wm. H. Brown, foot of Twelfth Street, East River, there were three steamers launched in succession: first, the *New World*, of six hundred and fifty tons, designed and constructed for service in California, completely fitted, and upon being disengaged from her launching hawsers her engine was put in motion; second, the *Boston*, of eight hundred tons, designed to ply between Boston and Bangor; and lastly the *Arctic*, the third of the steamers of the New York and Liverpool Steamship Co. (Collins Line).

An enormous crowd witnessed the launch of this, the largest vessel that then had been built in this country, the *Arctic* having a length on deck of two hundred and ninety-five feet, and being of three thousand five hundred tons burthen, with water-wheels thirty-five feet in diameter; for my readers must remember that ocean steamers then were chiefly "side-wheelers," or paddle-

boats. The name of this vessel is of mournful sound even until this day, for the *Arctic* suffered a notable disaster by collision with the *Vesta* in 1854, with great loss of life. Her consort, the *Pacific*, also, was lost in some manner ever unknown, perhaps by collision with an iceberg while racing the Cunarder *Persia*; she never was heard of, neither was any trace of her ever discovered. These disasters availed, with other causes, to end the once favorite Collins Line, in 1858.

In this year the Inman Line, or the Liverpool, New York, and Philadelphia Steamship Co., now known as the American Line, commenced operation.

February 4, the 200-horse power boiler in A. B. Taylor's machine shop, at 5 and 7 Hague Street, exploded at about eight o'clock in the morning, and the six-story building containing it was shaken to the ground. Sixty-three dead bodies were taken from the ruins during a week's search.

In April the National Academy of Design opened its quarters in Broadway opposite Bond Street, where stables had been transformed into a home of art.

Henry Grinnell, a retired merchant, entertained the design of an expedition to the North Sea, in search of Sir John Franklin, and in pursuance of his purpose purchased two vessels which he named *Advance* and *Rescue*; and proffered them to the Government, which early in May accepted them, and appointed Lieutenant DeHaven, U. S. N., to command the expedition. It departed from New York on May 22, and although it failed to find Sir John, it proceeded so far north as to add to previous discoveries, in a tract which was named Grinnell Land, and to verify the opinion that existed as to the presence of a Polar Sea. The expedition arrived here on its return September 30, 1851.

April 10, the New York and Virginia Steamship Co. was chartered, and soon commenced service between this

city and Norfolk, and subsequently to Richmond. It was succeeded by the Old Dominion Steamship Co. in 1868.

At this period Broadway was undergoing a rapid change into a street of trade. The City Hotel, after its long existence, at last disappeared, giving way to a row of shops. A. T. Stewart extended his own building to the corner of Reade Street. All through Broadway, nearly to Bleecker Street, residences were coming down to be replaced by structures for business purposes.

June. Edwin Forrest, who was then in litigation with his wife, was incensed with N. P. Willis on account of his action and expressions in the case, and meeting him in Washington Square, he first knocked him down and then lashed him very severely with a flexible cane. Willis was reported as having called for help, and as the crowd attracted to the scene was disposed to respond to the appeal, Forrest shouted, "Stand back, all of you; this is a family matter!"

In July the Collins steamer *Atlantic* performed the quickest passage then recorded between Liverpool and New York, in ten days and fifteen hours. The highly successful result of this second voyage—the first leaving here April 27—on the part of one of our countrymen to compete with the Cunard Line, was hailed with enthusiasm, and Mr. E. K. Collins, the projector and agent of the line, was presented by the merchants of the city with a gold dinner-set. Not only were the vessels of the Cunard Line beaten in speed, but the American line was superior in convenience and elegance of equipment. Soon after the fleet was increased by the addition of the *Arctic* and *Baltic*, and later the *Adriatic*.

July 24, took place the funeral observances, under care of the city authorities, in honor of the President, General Zachary Taylor, who had died a fortnight earlier. A military and civic procession five miles long

was witnessed by a crowd of spectators estimated to number a quarter of a million. The whole proceeding was marked by most orderly, becoming, and even solemn behavior.

September 3; the New York and Erie Railroad was opened to the end of the Susquehanna Division at Hornellsville, N. Y.

September 24. The steamer *Pacific* of the New York and Liverpool Steamship Co. (Collins Line) arrived from Liverpool in the short time of ten days and four hours, from Rock Light to her berth at Canal Street, beating the Cunard steamer. The *Pacific* was a sister ship to the *Atlantic*. The *Arctic* and *Baltic*, which followed, had greater power and were materially faster; beating the Cunarders from two to four days.

During this summer the opera company from the Tacon Theatre of Havana had been giving performances at Castle Garden at fifty cents' admission, beginning early in July. This was by far the finest company that had visited New York, and created a profound sensation here. Old citizens will thank me for recalling the delight suggested by mention of the mere names of the *prime donne*, Steffanone and Tedesco; the tenors Salvi and Bettini; and the bassos Coletti and Marini. Maretzek engaged most of these artists, and combining with them the best of his former company (Mme. Bertucca, Signora Truffi, Beneventano, etc.), gave a subsequent season at Castle Garden at the same prices of admission, but this speculation resulted in pecuniary failure, in spite of the delight afforded by the performances. Notwithstanding the charm of a company so excellent, set in a place of such attraction in summer weather, surrounded by moon-lighted water and cooled by sea breezes,—altogether the most delicious place of amusement New York ever knew,—the audiences attracted by this pleasurable combination were oftentimes very scanty.

Meantime a new musical excitement was close at hand.

In September, Jenny Lind, the famous Swedish singer, arrived in New York, after a long preliminary course of heralding by her manager, Barnum, much of it absurd, though all of it was effective with the public. When her steamer (the *Atlantic*) appeared, the wharf was crowded with people eager with welcome. Barnum offered two hundred dollars for the best song to be sung by Mlle. Lind, for which no less than seven hundred competitors appeared, the prize being adjudged to Bayard Taylor by a highly respectable committee, headed by George Ripley. Her concerts were intended to be given in Tripler Hall in Broadway (on the site afterward occupied by the Winter Garden), but since the structure was not completed in time for this use, Castle Garden was chosen, and here, after an excited competition for tickets,—the choice of seats being sold by auction at prices previously unheard of; the highest being bid by a hatter, who was thought to be the maddest of his tribe, but, from the advertising point of view, was not half so mad as he seemed,—the “Swedish Nightingale” made her first appearance in America on the evening of the 11th. The scene on this occasion, and the whole Jenny Lind excitement, will be remembered so long as any are living who witnessed them. Mlle. Lind’s original contract with Barnum, of one thousand dollars for each performance, was widely advertised as proof of her transcendent merit, and so was the alteration of it to one-half of the net profits, her share of which for the first performance was twelve thousand six hundred dollars. This sum Mlle. Lind devoted to public charities in New York, beginning with three thousand dollars for the Fire Department Fund. Such conduct of course heightened the public furor, and all through the land, in the newspapers and in households, many tales of her “angelic” nature were current. In New York crowds followed her wherever she went, so



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that, in order to secure some degree of privacy, she was obliged to abandon her hotel (the Irving House) and find a refuge in more private quarters. In this campaign of puffing Barnum fairly exceeded his own fame as master of the ways by which public reputations may be manufactured. In Mlle. Lind's case, however, there was no need of showman's tricks, save from the Barnum or box-office point of view. Though her voice was of no remarkable power or beauty, she was artist to the fingertips, and her vocalization approached the utmost degree of perfection in refinement and finish.

So great was the desire to see her that parties who

failed to obtain tickets for the Garden hired row-boats and rested in the river outside of the Garden, during the performance.

Tripler Hall, having been completed, was opened in October with a concert in which Jenny Lind appeared. Mlle. Lind sang in "The Messiah" on November 9, when the Harmonic Society repeated its performance of that work. Tripler Hall was also the scene of Mme. Anna Bishop's appearance in concert in October.

Maretzek opened the Astor Place Opera House for a new season in October, and on November 4 the great soprano, Teresa Parodi, made her first appearance in the character of *Norma*.

Orphan Asylum, incorporated 1807; West Seventy-third Street and Riverside Drive. A Protestant asylum for destitute orphans from eighteen months to ten years of age, and for half-orphans, when surviving parents are either mentally or physically unable to support them.

The editor of a daily paper was cowhided in Broadway by Mr. Graham, an unsuccessful candidate for district attorney in the election then just concluded.

Brougham's Lyceum, in Broadway near Broome Street, which afterward became Wallack's, and still later the Broadway Theatre, was built during this year, and opened on December 23 with an "occasional rigmarole," introducing all the members of the company, and a farce in which John L. Owens, afterward so well known, made his first bow in New York.

The Five Points Mission was now begun, under direction of the Rev. Lewis Morris Pease.

Andrew J. Downing, in letters to the *Horticulturist*, in the autumn of this year, pointed out the lack of open public spaces and places for common recreation in New York, and urged the necessity of providing for a great Park. This was the actual beginning of the Central Park, the birth of the idea, and Downing should be for-

ever remembered with gratitude by our people, and his statue should be raised by them in the place which they owe primarily to his foresight and trained intelligence.

In addition to the "gingerbread man," already referred to, and the "lime-kiln man,"—who was known to sleep on or about lime-kilns on the East side near Fourteenth Street, and whose body was eventually found there,—the "blue man," at about this date, was to be seen daily in the vicinity of the *Herald* building on Broadway; he had evidently been so liberally dosed with nitrate of silver, to correct epilepsy, that his face was strictly of a blue color.

John Hughes, who in 1825 was ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, and consecrated bishop in 1838, was made archbishop in this year.

St. Luke's Hospital, incorporated, affords medical and surgical aid and nursing to sick or disabled, suffering from acute, curable, and non-contagious disease, without distinction of race or creed.

The various labor organizations existing at this time were mainly engaged in essaying to attain a reduction in the hours of work by National and State legislation; they entered very generally into local politics, and many candidates were put in nomination by them for offices and representatives. In 1840 the hours of labor in all the Navy Yards had been fixed at ten hours daily by President Van Buren. In 1831 the first Printers' Union was formed. In 1829 the Workingmen's Party, which had been organized in the preceding year, first entered the political field and nominated candidates for office and representation: at the general election they succeeded in electing one member of the legislature. As early as 1825 the subject of greater wages, less hours of work, and legal protection was put forth by labor organizations and political aspirants who sought to avail themselves of the popular excitement.

1851. About the year 1831 "animal magnetism" or

"mesmerism" was brought into public notice in consequence of a report on the subject made to the Royal Academy of Medicine in Paris, evolving much literature, public and private discussion, and exhibitions or séances, as they were termed. In 1837 a further report was made to the French Academy, which it adopted, and which was of a nature to discourage adherents to the doctrine, as the Academy offered a prize in money to any "clairvoyant" who should perform certain feats asserted to be of common occurrence; but although several contestants for the prize made efforts during these years, they met only complete failures. Nevertheless, in this year the subject was again revived with some variations in England, under the designation of "hypnotism," under which it has remained in discussion to this time, with results sufficiently familiar to my readers. I may add, however, that the modern speculation about hypnotism has not in any equal degree excited the popular interest in this country in the debates elicited by animal magnetism, which a few years previously was a theme of common talk among the people. The doctrine of clairvoyance, and the like, became advanced by spiritualists and queer and eccentric people generally, which probably tended to the decline of the movement among the masses of our population.

The publisher of the City Directory for this year gave, in addition to the names and residences of individuals, etc., an additional book, in which the avenues and streets were alphabetically given with the numbers, and opposite to these the names of the residents or occupants of the building.

Canal Street was extended to Mulberry, and Walker Street widened twenty-five feet on the north side from Mulberry to Division Street, and extended to East Broadway. Dey Street, between Broadway and Greenwich Street, was widened.

May 5, Mayor Kingsland submitted to the Common Council a message in which he set forth the propriety and necessity of early action in the matter of a new Park, according to the suggestion made by A. J. Downing in the preceding year. The Common Council, approving the design, voted to solicit the legislature for authority to acquire the land. It may be more convenient if I fix here a summary of the further proceedings instead of distributing the incidents under the various years of their occurrence: In 1853, a committee of the Common Council recommended that the park should be located on the property known as "Jones's Wood," on the East side, opposite Blackwell's Island; and in order to give an opportunity to examine the location a steamboat was chartered and members of the legislature and the Chamber of Commerce, and others were invited to proceed to the locality; President Pierce being a guest of the party. As a result of the observation, the opinion was generally entertained that the location not only was not sufficiently central, but that one side of it being bounded by a deep stream and rapid current, the facility with which persons or bodies could be projected into it, might lead to commission of crime. Therefore, in the same year, authority having been granted by the legislature, commissioners of estimate and assessment for the land now occupied by the Central Park were appointed by the Supreme Court in the autumn. And on February 5, 1856, the court confirmed the report of these commissioners, which awarded for damages, \$5,169,369.69, and for benefits \$1,657,590.00, and the Common Council immediately appropriated the sum of more than five millions for the expenditure necessary at that time, and on May 19 appointed a commission to take in charge the work of construction. The commission was aided by a consulting committee, which included Washington Irving, Wm. C. Bryant, and George Bancroft. This committee first met on May 29,

1856. Action by the commission being held to be dilatory, the legislature, in 1857, appointed a new board, which invited designs, and in this year, on April 1, from thirty-three plans submitted, that of Fredk. L. Olmsted and Calvert Vaux was approved, and the work was begun. By the original design the northern boundary of the park was fixed at One Hundred and Sixth Street, but in 1859 it was transferred to One Hundred and Tenth Street.

May 14, 1851, the New York and Erie Railroad, having been completed to its western terminus at Dunkirk, N. Y., was formally opened with great ceremony, two



RILEY'S FIFTH WARD HOTEL, CORNER FRANKLIN AND CHAPEL STREETS

trains conveying President Fillmore, Daniel Webster, and a large company of distinguished men, making an excursion over the entire line, from Piermont, N. Y., to Dunkirk. This was the first trunk line from New York.

June 17, Barnum's "Lecture Room" was opened for presentation of "moral domestic drama." It was really a theatre (though a poor one), called Lecture Room to attract the public that avoided theatres. Performances were here given continually, and while the stage was a good place for beginners, children and visitors from the rural districts were delighted in front.

The labors of Dr. John Dennis Russ in behalf of the reformation of juveniles resulted this year in the incorporation of the New York Juvenile Asylum, located at One Hundred and Seventy-sixth Street and Amsterdam Avenue. It is held that the labors of Dr. Russ and the incorporation of the asylum were the result of the Astor Place Riot.

Williams & Guion in this year incorporated the Black Star Line of sailing packets to Liverpool.

The demand of the China and India trade for vessels of greater speed than the type of the time (1843-44) admitted of, led to the construction in 1844 of vessels of different proportions, having greater length to beam, greater rise of floors, and finer ends; and they, in consequence of their greater speed, were termed and known as "clippers." The first of this class was the *Rainbow*, of 750 tons, and the *Sea Witch*, of 907 tons, both built by Smith & Dimon for Howland & Aspinwall; then the *Helena* of 650 tons, by Wm. H. Webb for N. L. & G. Griswold; then the *Samuel Russell* of 940 tons, by Brown & Bell, for A. A. Low & Brother. In succeeding years there followed the *Snow Squall*, *White Squall*, *Black Squall*, *Invincible*, *Sword Fish*, *Flying Cloud*, *Trade Wind*, *Lightning*, *Comet*, *Red Jacket*, and others.

When this class of vessels was first brought to the

attention of English shippers and builders, the customary dissent and ridicule of "Yankee notions" were both entertained and proclaimed; but when the *Surprise*, of A. A. Low & Brother, reached San Francisco from this port in ninety days, with a cargo of 1800 tons, and discharging, loading, and leaving for London *via* Canton, arrived there with the first cargo of tea and freight at six pounds sterling per ton (while English vessels were obtaining but from three to four pounds), netting her owners fifty thousand dollars in excess of her cost and running expenses, our English brothers, with their practical good sense, especially whenever the opportunity is presented to them to reap an advantage, were not slow to avail themselves of the example thus presented, and however distasteful it was to them to be goaded on by "Yankees," yet they discarded sentiment and built "clipper" ships.

In 1846 Captain Wm. Skiddy had built in Boston by Donald McKay the ship *New World*, of 1400 tons, then the largest merchantman in the world. He soon after sold a large share of her to Grinnell, Minturn & Co. In 1851, the California trade requiring larger clippers, Wm. H. Webb built for N. L. & G. Griswold the *ChALLENGE*, of 2006 tons, and the *Invincible*, of 2150.

Of the great speed attained by these vessels I cite the following in addition to that of the *Surprise*: New York to San Francisco, the *Sea Witch*, in ninety-seven days; and the *Flying Cloud*, 1784 tons, in eighty-four, and on one day 433 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles (knots). The *Samuel Russell* on a voyage to Canton made 328 miles (knots) in one day, and the *Sovereign of the Seas*, of 2421 tons, from San Francisco, for twenty-two days averaged 283.9 miles (knots) per day, and ran from New York to Liverpool in thirteen days and nineteen hours. The *Dreadnought*, belonging to E. D. Morgan, Captain Samuels, and others, beat the *Canada* steamer from Liverpool, though the Cunarder

had a day's start; the clipper reaching Sandy Hook before the steamer arrived at Boston. The *Comet* sailed from here to San Francisco and back in seven months and nine days, the return passage occupying only seventy-six days (the shortest on record).

Such were some of the triumphs of the golden days of American ship-building, when the flag was seen in every port of the world, flying over the most finished specimens of marine structure ever known. In those days (1840-60) the ship-yards extended along the East River from Pike to Thirteenth Street, employing thousands of skilled workmen whose intelligence and character were of the sturdiest foundations of our civil government. This mighty industry has been destroyed by ignorant legislation. By 1849, however, the success of the Cunard Line of steamers began to affect not only the further building of our foreign packets, but to cause them gradually to lapse from freight and passenger traffic to freight alone.

The yacht *America*, schooner of 170 tons (Custom House measurement), the winner of the Queen's Cup, which was contended for under the direction of the Royal Yacht Squadron of England off the Isle of Wight, was designed by George Steers of James R. & George Steers, ship-builders of this city, and built by his firm for John C. and Edwin A. Stevens, George L. Schuyler, J. Beekman Finlay, and Hamilton Wilkes. Leaving here in July, she arrived at Havre, where she was fitted with her racing spars and sails, and in her passage to the Isle of Wight she encountered the schooner *Livonia*, evidently detailed to test her speed, of which the owner soon became so well cognizant that, upon Commodore Stevens posting an offer in the Club House of a bet upon the result of the approaching contest of from one guinea to five thousand, it was not taken. It is worthy of notice that the *Livonia* had been waiting

the coming of the *America* for several days, and immediately upon her appearance joined company, the purpose of which was so patent that for a moment the question was with Commodore Stevens, and his companions, "Shall we compete with her, or conceal our capacity?" The consideration was of brief duration; it being chivalrously decided that notwithstanding the action of the *Livonia's* owner was indelicate, and but a transfer of the "touting" of a race-course to the water, the yacht should continue her course without any notice of the competition.

Soon after a pilot for the *America* had been engaged Commodore Stevens received several anonymous letters, stating that the pilot would sell him, etc.; but the commodore not only did not heed them, but upon being questioned in relation to them, he replied: "The commodore of the British club, in providing the man, said he would be responsible for his faithfulness, and consequently I am fully satisfied, having the word of a gentleman."

The rules of the race did not give any allowance for tonnage, but Commodore Stevens declared he would not start in less than a six-knot breeze. There were fifteen starters, ranging from 47 to 392 tons, and the *America* not only won by some 25 minutes, but proved to be much the faster vessel on all points of sailing. So marvellous was the performance of the *America* held to be that there were many who believed there was some propelling machinery on board of her. In illustration of this opinion: Lord Yarborough visited her, and after looking all through between decks, boldly asked the sailing-master Brown, who was in charge, to lift the hatch in the cockpit, in order that he might be fully advised upon the question of the alleged existence of a propelling machine in her stern.

The cup was open to the yachts of the clubs of all nations.

In the latter part of the race the wind fell, and although the *America* had been many miles ahead of all her competitors, a very small yacht by running close to the shore, thus avoiding the strength of the adverse tide, was enabled to gain upon the *America* so as to reduce her lead to twenty-five minutes.

July. The Common Council passed an ordinance to extend the area of the Battery, which was vetoed by the Mayor.

July 15, Edwin Forrest sued N. P. Willis for twenty thousand dollars alleged damages to his character, and he also commenced proceedings to obtain a divorce from his wife Catharine N. Fisher, *née* Sinclair.

Mme. D'Amsmont, "Fanny" (Frances) Wright, applied for a divorce from the man she had married while engaged in lecturing and writing against marriage.

James Fenimore Cooper died on September 14, and on the 15th a memorial meeting was held at the City Hall under the presidency of Washington Irving; and on February 24, 1852, a more formal meeting was convened at Metropolitan Hall (once Tripler Hall, afterward the Winter Garden, in Broadway, near Bond Street). On this occasion Daniel Webster presided, supported by Irving, and Bryant delivered the address. Reproductions from a sketch by the venerable artist, Mr. D. Huntington, of these three men as they appeared on the occasion, are still treasured in New York families.

Booth's last appearance in New York was on September 19. His last appearance on any stage was on November 19 of the next year (1852) at the St. Charles Theatre, in New Orleans. Four days after that he died on board a steamboat for Cincinnati.

On October 3, the Hudson River Railroad, chartered May 12, 1846, was opened to Albany.

December 5, Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, arrived in New York on the United States war steamer

Mississippi, which had been sent by our Government to convey him hither as the nation's guest. Here he was received with unbounded enthusiasm; crowds followed him in the streets, hung upon his words, and noted his actions and his very attire. Imitation, that "sincerest



VANDENHEUVEL MANSION, LATER BURNHAM'S HOTEL, BROADWAY AND
SEVENTY-EIGHTH TO SEVENTY-NINTH STREET

form of flattery," introduced into common use the "Kossuth hat" in the place of the more formal headgear previously worn. At Washington Kossuth had distinguished honors paid to him. He visited most of the chief cities and addressed great meetings with moving eloquence. His efforts, however, to raise funds for renewing the struggle of Hungary with Austria were not very suc-

cessful, especially since the news of Louis Napoleon's *coup d'état*, shortly after Kossuth's arrival, seemed to presage a considerable change in European politics. Kossuth returned to Europe in July of the next year.

September 18, Henry J. Raymond, who in 1841 was engaged as a reporter on the *Tribune* at ten dollars a week, organized and founded the New York *Times*, which first was published at 113 Nassau Street, and afterward at the corner of Nassau and Beekman streets, until removed in 1857 to its present site.

The Nicaragua route to San Francisco was opened in this year.

Astor Place Opera House, at the end of the first "five seasons' subscription," was given over to business and the occupancy of the Mercantile Library; being remodelled for the purpose, and taking the old name of Clinton Hall after the library's earlier home. Now even the building has disappeared; its graceful proportions giving way to a new structure, larger and more convenient, no doubt, but in point of architecture showing a mournful decline of taste as compared with its predecessor.

December 3, Niblo's Garden was remarkable for the appearance of Adelina Patti, whose voice and execution, though she was but a child of eight years, excited very great admiration and astonishment. Mme. Patti herself has lately said of this concert:

I sang on the stage from my seventh to my eleventh year, and carried on my doll when I made my first appearance in public at the former age, singing "Ah! non giunge"—the finale of the third act of "*La Sonnambula*"—in a concert at Niblo's Garden, December 3, 1851. I remember that occasion as well as though it were yesterday, and can even recall the dress I wore—a white silk with little trimming.

December 29 first appeared Lola Montez, a danseuse of considerable and various fame, who appealed rather to nature than to the artistic sense. She attracted crowded

houses for a short time, although scarcely fulfilling public expectation. She had many travels and adventures in this country, in which, I think, she passed the remainder of her career; at any rate she died here about ten years later than this date, closing a turbulent life in poverty and humility.

In this year ironical fate destroyed by fire the fire-alarm bell on the tower at Sixth Avenue and Tenth Street.

Sixth Avenue Railroad opened and its operation commenced.

About this period there daily appeared on Nassau Street a large and lugubrious man with a stentorian voice, who announced "twenty-five self-sealing envelopes, all for four cents"—the four cents being especially dwelt upon. He was a positive nuisance, not only to the neighbors, but to passers-by; but it was found to be impracticable to suppress him, and he continued his vocation for some three years, when he was providentially removed. So notorious was he that when one wished to express his disapproval of a measure he deemed of insufficient character, he termed it a "four-cent affair."

The "razor-strop man" on the corner of Pine and Nassau streets was a like nuisance for many years, till he was in a like manner removed.

In 1808 the city was divided into ten wards; in 1825 the number was increased to twelve; in 1827 to fourteen; in 1832, by dividing the Ninth Ward, to fifteen; in 1836 the Sixteenth Ward was made of a part of the Twelfth; in 1837 the Seventeenth was made out of a part of the Eleventh; in 1846 the Sixteenth was divided by the making of the Eighteenth; in 1850 the Nineteenth was made out of a part of the Twelfth, and in this year the Twentieth was made out of a part of the Sixteenth.

CHAPTER XXIV

1852, 1853, 1854.—AMEROSE C. KINGSLAND, 1852; JACOB A. WESTERVELT, 1853 AND 1854, MAYORS

1852. THE New York and Harlem Railroad was opened to Chatham Four Corners. In this year Liberty Street was widened from Greenwich to Broadway, and Washington Street was extended from Twelfth to Gansevoort.

The city purchased from A. R. Lawrence sixty acres more or less on Ward's Island, paying about fifteen hundred dollars per acre, and sixteen more acres of other parties, at about the same price. The rest of the Island is owned by the State.

When the grading of Fifth Avenue from Thirty-fourth Street to Forty-fifth was under consideration, and the Committee on Streets of the Board of Aldermen was in session, two individuals presented themselves whose interests were directly at variance. One of them, who during the war of 1813 had supplied the army with groceries, when an elevation of the proposed change of grade was shown him, and its advantage vaunted, declared that "he could not see it"; whereupon the other person replied that he was not at all surprised, as a man who during the late war could not tell the difference between corn-meal and ground ginger could not be expected to see much.

January 5, Mt. Sinai Hospital incorporated, Twenty-eighth Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues; a general hospital for the medical and surgical care of all creeds and classes, except sufferers from infectious diseases. Free to worthy indigent sick.

January 21, the "Tea Room" of the Common Council was restored.

January 26, the suit of Edwin Forrest for a divorce from his wife, in which many leading legal practitioners on both sides were engaged, and which occupied Court and jury for thirty-two days, was decided in favor of the wife. A numerous band of partisans supported Forrest in this controversy, but public sympathy was generally with the wife, and Forrest's reputation was not heightened by the proceeding.

At the Broadway Theatre Forrest, at the end of his divorce case, began an engagement as *Damon* which really was remarkable, as he continued it for sixty-nine consecutive nights.

February 2, at Brougham's Lyceum, appeared for the first time on any stage, Mrs. Sinclair, daughter of the vocalist, and divorced wife of Forrest. She made her début as *Lady Teazle*, which was accounted a triumphant success by her friends, and ran for eight nights. Later she was not so successful with the public. The opinion of the more judicious part of society was that this playing against each other of the two parties to the recent divorce proceedings, and thus merchandising the sympathies of their friends, was not a delicate proceeding.

Early in May, Charlotte Cushman was seen here as *Rosalind*. She announced for the 14th a farewell benefit previous to retiring from the stage, on which occasion she produced "The Banker's Wife." She retired, but to no great distance, as she appeared the next evening in the character of *Meg Merrilies*.

In July the public funeral observance in memory of Henry Clay was the occasion of a great military parade.

July 28. In the afternoon a fire was discovered on board the steamboat *Henry Clay* on her passage from Albany to this city, and after vain attempts to quench it, she was headed for the shore, injudiciously "head on,"

and as a result all passengers abaft of the fire, which was amidships, were compelled to leap into the water, and such as could not swim, or were not effectually supported, were drowned. The entire loss of life was held to range from sixty to one hundred, of which number the renowned and esteemed Stephen Allen was one. He was Mayor of the city in 1821 to 1823.

In August of this year three river thieves rowed alongside of a ship in the East River, two of them boarded her, and in progress of stealing aroused the night watchman, whom they killed with a bullet from a pistol. George W. Walling, afterward Chief of Police, was forthwith detailed to discover the murderer, and upon the arrest of the three men, the one who was left in the boat turned State's evidence; the other two, Howlett and Saul, were tried, condemned, and hanged. For some years after this the depredations of river thieves were so many and so bold that the organization of a Harbor Police became a necessity; its custody of our wharves and of vessels becoming so effective that river thieving was very effectively diminished on the New York side of the river.

August 30, the Astor Place Opera House suffered its change into the New York Theatre, under Charles R. Thorne, who retained it, however, for less than a month. Chanfrau then took the house, but abandoned it in even less time.

In the strait between this city and Long Island,—erroneously termed a river (East), as it is wholly deficient in the characteristics of one,—and at the deflection of the current between Astoria and Ward's Island, there was, when the tides were running, an eddy of sufficient depth and area to be termed a whirlpool, and it was known as Hell Gate. At half tides it was unsafe for small boats to approach it. The increased number of vessels that passed through the strait rendered some remedial action

necessary, and in order to ascertain how far the conformation of the bottom was conducive to the eddy, it was sounded and the presence of a projecting rock with an overhanging head was discovered; whereupon the city appropriated a sum of money for its destruction, and under a contract with a Mr. Maillefert, the operation, commenced late in the preceding year, and finished in this, proved to be very successful.

There was a scandal, however, connected with this contract; it being asserted that the depth required was not obtained, as the instrument or staff by which the depth was to be arrived at was bored out in the centre for a length of some feet, to admit of what a sailor would term a sliding gunter construction; that is, the iron rod at the base, instead of being permanently fixed to the body of the shaft, would, when meeting resistance, slide up in the bore; and hence the depth of the water, which was read off at the water-line on the staff, would be reduced as much as the rod receded.

September 1, the Metropolitan Hotel, at Broadway and Prince Street, was opened, having been completed at the cost of one million of dollars. It was then said to stand at the head of the hotels of the world in all points of elegance, comfort, and convenience. Its opening was celebrated by a banquet, attended by five hundred persons, most of them of position in society, representing every State in the Union. The house was kept by the Leland Brothers, famous in their business, who had been proprietors of the Clinton Hotel at Beekman and Nassau streets. They controlled it for about twenty years. Its later history is not within the scope of these "Reminiscences."

September 8 was memorable for the opening of Wallack's Lyceum; the house, formerly Brougham's, having been acquired by James W. Wallack, his sons Lester and Charles being stage-manager and treasurer.

The taste and elegance displayed in all its productions gave it a caste of the highest respectability, such as never had been enjoyed by any place of entertainment in New York, save only the old Park Theatre. It was occupied by them until removal in 1861 to corner of Broadway and Thirteenth Street, now the Star Theatre. The admissions to the theatre at this time were fifty and twenty-five cents.

It was not until about this year that the cobblestone pavement in our streets was in progress of removal, substituting the successful Belgian pavement of 1832 in the Bowery, and repaving Broadway with the stone blocks designed by a Mr. Russ, and some of the principal streets of traffic with the Belgian pavement of the time.

The Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum, which was organized in 1825, was in this year incorporated; for girls on Madison Avenue, for boys on Fifth Avenue, both between Fifty-first and Fifty-second streets. Orphans and half orphans, from three to ten years, are admitted.

In this year the Anchor Steamship Line was established, and commenced service between this city and Glasgow.

September 27, Henrietta Sontag (Countess Rossi) first appeared in New York, in concert at Metropolitan (Tripler) Hall. Here she repeated the successes that had attended her in every capital of the civilized world, being an artist of the very first rank and a charming woman in person and character.

The total assessed value of real and personal estates was \$351,706,795, and the tax levy was put at \$3,378,332.

October 1, in consequence of a robbery of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars from Messrs. Brown Brothers & Co., their bookkeeper and a note-broker were subjected to surveillance by police officers.

In November occurred the public ceremonies of mourning for the death of Daniel Webster, attended, as those for Clay had been, by a military procession and

every sign of grief. Thus had the country been called within a few weeks' time to deplore the loss of Clay and Webster; an almost unparalleled conjuncture and one not likely soon to be repeated, considering the present supply of great men. These two were a great conservative force, removed from the scene of action just when political troubles involving the Civil War were nearing the height. Both died too soon for their highest fame, as has recently (1894) been remarked of Webster by Senator Hoar in a passage of great beauty and truth.

The same month witnessed the arrival of the famous novelist W. M. Thackeray, under engagement with the Mercantile Library Association to deliver his lectures on the "English Humorists of the Eighteenth Century." There was some doubt touching the nature of his reception, since our public was still sore over the outcome of the Dickens visit, but eventually Thackeray enjoyed respectful and attentive hearing, and generous social welcome. He began his lectures on November 19, in Dr. Chapin's church, before a crowded audience. The lectures gave rise to a great revival of eighteenth-century literature among us, and the booksellers drove an active trade in it. Thackeray remained here until the next April, evidently enjoying his visit, and forming many close and affectionate friendships.

It was in this year that the Rev. Dr. Jonathan M. Wainwright was chosen Provisional Bishop of New York, after an interregnum of eight years resulting from Bishop Onderdonk's suspension. Dr. Wainwright set himself so sharply to clear up the large arrears of Episcopal duty that his health broke down from overwork and he died in September, 1854. When made bishop, Dr. Wainwright was an Assistant Minister of Trinity Parish, in charge of St. John's Chapel, and it is notable that up to this time every Bishop of New York had been taken from the Trinity clergy.

Spofford & Tileston now organized a line of packet ships to Liverpool.

The Sixth Avenue Railroad was opened in this or the previous year. It was not until this period that the banking up of the snow, on the sides of the streets through which street railways were operated, impeded and restricted the running of trucks and sleds; and as the railways increased in number and extent, the use of sleds was proportionately decreased, and in a few years they were wholly laid aside. Previously—that is, before the banking up of snow on the sides of the principal streets—the uniform surface of the snow admitted of sledding and sleighing, as earlier recited. When street stages had been introduced, they were laid aside when the use of sleighs was practicable, and large open sleighs drawn by four and sometimes six horses were resorted to, and many individuals and parties enjoyed these for the ride alone; and of a pleasant evening Broadway would be enlivened with hilarious singing, instrumental music, horn-blowing, etc. The removal of snow in Broadway was not resorted to until some ten years after the date of this chapter, or about 1862.

The completion of the New York and Erie Railroad in the preceding year and the manipulations of Daniel Drew, who became one of its directors, were followed by speculations upon the rise and fall of its stock to so great an extent that many of the operators suffered, among whom was Wm. M. Tweed, who in the previous year had retired from his business as a manufacturer of chairs in Pearl Street, and rented an office in Wall Street. He was among the sufferers to an extent that involved his capital; his subsequent association with Gould and Fisk was the result of an expressed determination of his “to get square with Erie.”

Drew was decidedly a character, indisputably *sui generis*. I first knew him as a keeper of the “Bull’s

Head" Tavern in Third Avenue, corner of Twenty-sixth Street; from that he migrated to Wall Street, where his speculations, his devout and earnest homilies at Methodist meetings and conferences, his donations to meeting-houses and a theological seminary, his connection with menageries, the Albany line of steamboats, and his disregard of the rules of Lindley Murray, etc., made his transactions and sayings prolific with the *quid nuncs* and *on dits* of the time.

He was charged with the unpardonable crime of sacrificing his friends, if he was to be benefited thereby. An illustrative case was told me by the party who suffered. A young lawyer in a case in which Drew was interested succeeded, after a tedious litigation, in recovering the sum at issue; and upon receiving the amount of his services and expenses, Drew said to him, "Sonny, you did it; I like to see young men go ahead; I knew your father. Now, as you have got some money, you had better go into the market and buy some stock. It is low now, and if you will be advised by an old friend of your father's, buy Erie. It is safe, very safe. Now, sonny, do as I say." The full amount the lawyer had received was invested in a margin on Erie, which soon fell so as to absorb the entire amount of it; and he then learned that the stock he had bought was sold by Drew, and in relating the transaction his remarks were not only very emphatic, but not such as are held to be conventionally proper.

1853. In this year Beekman Street was widened from Nassau to Pearl. The Third Avenue Railroad began operation. The Astor Library was completed; the cost of the site was twenty-five thousand dollars. In January of the next year the building was opened to public inspection, and shortly afterward to students.

Henry Grinnell, who in 1851 had equipped an expedition to proceed to the Northern Ocean, in search of Sir John Franklin, was associated this year with George



"OLD BREWERY," CROSS (PARK), BETWEEN CENTRE AND BAXTER STREETS

Peabody in the equipment of a second expedition in the *Advance*, under the command of Dr. Elisha Kent Kane of the Navy; but this, like all others, failed of its assigned purpose.

Two notable philanthropic works are to be noted in this year. The Children's Aid Society was founded, chiefly through the efforts of the late Charles L. Brace, its secretary and chief executive, and thus began its labor of incalculable value. The Five Points Mission, having bought and demolished the "Old Brewery," laid the corner-stone of its new building on the site of the brewery, on January 27.

The New York Society Library in this year sold its building at Broadway and Leonard Street, removing for a time to the Bible House, and during its occupancy there purchased ground on University Place, where it erected its present building, into which it removed in 1856.

January first appeared *Putnam's Monthly*, under the editorship of Charles F. Briggs ("Harry Franco"), with Mr. Parke Godwin and the late George William Curtis assisting him.

January 8, Thomas Hamblin, the Bowery Theatre manager, died, and performances at it were suspended for a week.

May 2, Franconi's Hippodrome was opened where Corporal Thompson's Cottage had for a long time been sole occupant of the ground—the site of the Fifth Avenue Hotel of this day. The Hippodrome was of brick, two stories high, and about 225 feet in diameter. It inclosed an open arena. The performances were excellent and the place was in great favor during its existence of two years or thereabout, after which it gave way to Mr. Amos Eno's new hotel.

At this time, also, in the near neighborhood, the Madison Square Presbyterian Church from Broome Street, Rev. Wm. Adams, pastor (now the Rev. Dr. Parkhurst's), was begun; it was ready for occupancy in December, 1854.

In consequence of the corruption existing in the Municipal Departments, and especially in the Boards of Aldermen and Assistants, they from the facility, extent, and conditions with which they granted leases of city railroads, ferries, etc., despite the vetoes of the Mayor, were designated the "Forty Thieves"; the boards consisting each of twenty members. William M. Tweed was at this time a member of the Board of Aldermen, and Richard B. Conolly was appearing both upon the political and municipal stages, under the well-earned and exceptionally appropriate *sobriquet* of "Slippery Dick."

The Legislature was called upon to enact a new charter, which being submitted to the people June 7, was approved by an exceptional vote, by the operation of which the Board of Assistant Aldermen was abolished, one of Councilmen of sixty members was substituted, and Aldermen were excluded from sitting in the Courts of Oyer and Terminer and the Sessions.

The venality of some members of the Common Council and some members of the Departments was so extensive

and so manifest that the tenure of the office of member was held to be more of a reproach than an honor. The fraternity and cohesiveness of common plunder, the *auri sacra fames*, was superior to all consideration of political and party affiliations and discipline. Republicans and Democrats joined hands; of this I write from observation, for after two years of service I, in 1858, presided over one of the Boards.

This was also the year of beginning the work of St. Luke's Hospital, under the Rev. Dr. W. A. Muhlenberg; in a building adjacent to the Church of the Holy Communion, at Sixth Avenue and Twentieth Street.

July 4. The World's Fair, as it was termed, situated in Reservoir Square, now Bryant Park, was a natural result of the Crystal Palace that had been constructed at Sydenham near London, in 1851. It was formally opened by President Pierce and a distinguished company, but the display of materials, although very creditable of its kind, was too inconsiderable to engage the attention of other than our own citizens. It was reopened May 14, 1854, as a permanent exhibition, but the enterprise proved to be a signal failure, and soon after its close and while its affairs were in the hands of a receiver, the building was wholly burned on October 5, 1858; by which Kiss's statue of the Amazon was destroyed, of more value than the building and all that then remained within it.

Though the Crystal Palace of New York proved directly abortive, yet, strange as it may now seem, it did indirectly prove of benefit in stimulating the northward growth of New York much in the same manner as General Grant's funeral and burial-place aided in these days the development of the "West Side," by bringing millions of people to observe its advantages. Just in this fashion the Crystal Palace served the New York of forty years ago. Great crowds of visitors were attracted by it to what then was a remote, outward part of the city,

and not only observed the opportunities for building, etc., there presented, but more important still, became familiarized with the notion of the mere possibility and practicability of travelling so far as Forty-second Street. In this way the World's Fair accelerated the uptown movement and added to the value of all land lying upon and about Murray Hill.

In July, Maretzek gave a season of Italian opera at Castle Garden with a company including Mmes. Sontag, Steffanone, and Patti-Strakosch, Salvi, etc. The performances continued until late in August.

July 18, a day memorable in the history of the National Theatre, Aiken's version of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was brought out—a play which, from little Cordelia Howard's *Eva* and Mrs. G. C. Howard's *Topsy*, achieved a success which could be called strictly unprecedented, being given for more than two hundred successive times. All classes of the community thronged to witness the representations, and afternoon performances were demanded and maintained for weeks. It is somewhat remarkable that the cast at the National for this play included Mr. and Mrs. J. Lingard and G. Lingard; C. K. and G. L. Fox; and Mr. and Mrs G. C. Howard and Cordelia Howard; Mrs. Howard, moreover, having been Caroline Fox.

August 29, Louis Jullien began at Castle Garden his famous series of concerts, with an orchestra of about a hundred, some of them being players of unusual merit. A more refined musical civilization may dismiss Jullien as only a "popular" conductor, and truly he was so; but it was in a good sense, and he taught our public many things that it required to learn. He had extraordinary command of his band, and produced results until his day unknown in these parts. With a keen eye for theatrical effects, Jullien was, notwithstanding, of the real artist nature, and the outcome of his work here was a distinct

improvement of musical taste and knowledge among our people.

September 22, at a concert in Tripler Hall, Adelina Patti again sang in public, being then a child of about ten years; she displayed powers that confirmed the previous anticipations of her great future excellence. For a considerable time she continued to appear as a child-performer, mostly in company with Paul Julien, a clever boy violinist.

It was during this year that E. A. Sothern, the comedian, made his first appearance in Barnum's "Lecture Room," under the name of Stewart.

October 11, the New York Clearing House began business.

John Littlefield, at Merchants' Exchange, who in 1844 was first known as a "corn-doctor" at 453 Broadway, was the first who presented himself to the public as a "chiropodist" (1844); prior to this the occupation was unknown; in this year Richard H. Westervelt was associated with him. Manicures and Masseurs not only were unknown, but did not appear until some years after this date.

At this period and later a well-known and notorious character figured in Wall and Broad streets as a broker; he was a dark mulatto, almost of the "sambo" shade, who essayed to pass himself off as a West Indian by shaving his head and wearing a full wig of jet black hair. He called himself Hamilton, and was universally known as "Nigger Hamilton." In consequence of the brazen manner in which he assumed the association of and the privileges of a white man, aided by the passive submission of a majority of those he met, he rode in street stages, ostentatiously exhibited himself at the lunch counter at Delmonico's in Broad Street, and addressed or referred to some acquaintances in a familiar manner. It was asserted that, before his appearance here, he had been

engaged in a venture to pass off a large amount of counterfeit coin in one of the West India islands, and that, upon detection, he saved his life by escaping in a boat.

On the occasion of his meeting a well-known gentleman of this city, who was remarkable for the moderate and self-possessed manner in which he spoke, Hamilton, with an assumed attitude of defiance, stepped in front of the gentleman and said: "I hear you have said I was a nigger." To this the gentleman, looking Hamilton squarely in the face, and with his quiet manner, replied: "Are you not?" This settled the matter; the manner



PARK THEATRE, CHATHAM STREET (PARK ROW)

of reply, added to its truth, was too much for Hamilton. He stepped aside and proceeded on his way. I was on the opposite side of the street when this meeting occurred.

In August, 1843, he, with two others, was indicted for an alleged attempt to defraud the Atlantic Insurance Co., by shipping a quantity of type metal in boxes, designated as specie, with the ultimate purpose of the vessel being scuttled.

December 10, occurred the destruction by fire of Harper & Brothers' great printing and publishing house in Franklin Square. An ingenious plumber threw a match into a pan of camphene, used for cleaning ink-rollers. There were six hundred persons in the building, but no life was lost. The fire broke out about 1 P. M., and destroyed thirty-three steam presses and thousands of tons of books, but the firm's valuable collection of stereotype plates was saved uninjured. On the 26th of the same month a bakery in Front Street and several adjoining stores were destroyed by fire, which involved four ships lying near; among which was the *Great Republic*, an enormous vessel of much celebrity. One of the ships was loosed from her moorings in order to save her, but a west wind drove her across to Brooklyn, where she burned.

1854. In this year Bloomingdale Square was opened; Canal and Walker streets were extended; Wall from Broadway to Nassau, and Whitehall from Bowling Green to State Street were widened.

January 8, the Metropolitan (Tripler) Hall and the adjacent Lafarge House were destroyed by fire.

All through the fall of 1853 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was continued at Purdy's National, and on January 9, of this year, had its one hundred and eightieth representation. Then it began to decline somewhat in attractive power, and other plays were occasionally given. In May

occurred Cordelia Howard's benefit, when she played *Eva* for the two hundred and thirtieth time.

The inmates of the House of Refuge, which in 1839 had been transferred from Madison Square to the foot of Twenty-third Street, were removed from the latter place to Randall's Island, under the custody of the State.

The Union Club removed from 591 Broadway to its new home at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Twenty-first Street.

February 4, Whitehall Street was ordered to be widened.

The Morgan Line of sailing packets, hence to London, was organized with ships of eighteen hundred tons. This was the year of the clipper ship *Dreadnought's* famous passage under Captain Samuels, from Liverpool to this port; beating the Cunarder *Canada* (to Boston) with a day to spare.

Cyrus W. Field, Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor, Marshall O. Roberts, and Chandler White associated themselves and organized the Atlantic Cable Company.

The period was now reached when the manifold public charities of New York were increasing rapidly. The Five Points House of Industry, which had been (1850) an association for the amelioration of the condition of the children of that and the adjacent neighborhoods, was incorporated in this year by the zealous services of Archibald Russell. Its purpose is to induct children to school, to clothe and feed them, to afford out-door relief and a hospital.

May 6, St. Luke's Hospital, which was projected in 1846, incorporated in 1850, and had begun work in 1853, as previously noted herein, laid the corner-stone of the present building (1894) on Fifth Avenue.

In April, the Mercantile Library removed to the new Clinton Hall, the transformed Astor Place Opera House.

April 25, in the course of a fire at Jennings & Co.'s clothing shop at 231 Broadway, the main rear wall fell

upon an extension on which firemen were at work, covering twenty or more, half of whom were killed.

May 27, Duane Street was ordered to be widened. This was the year of the founding of the Arion Society by secession from the Deutsche Liederkrantz.

June. It was discovered that a corporation termed the Parker Vein Coal Co., which had been organized a few years previous for the purpose of developing the mine, and had constructed ten propeller steamers for the transportation of its coal, had flooded the market with an issue of stock much in excess of its capital.

This year was so prolific in the discovery of over-issues of stock that it was an illustration of the familiar adage that "misfortunes come seldom alone," for soon after the preceding case, July 1, the city was astounded in learning that Robert Schuyler, the President of the New York and New Haven Railroad, had issued a large amount of unauthorized stock, which he had sold at the par value of the capital stock. Before the shock of this discovery had quieted, it was discovered that Alexander Kyle, the secretary of the Harlem Railroad Co., had forged and sold stock to a large amount.

September 4, Hackett opened Castle Garden for a season of Italian Opera; having under engagement the famous artists Grisi and Mario. His original prices of five dollars and three dollars were soon reduced to three dollars for all parts of the house. On these terms large audiences attended. The weather becoming soon too cold for comfort in this place, the opera was moved October 2 to the new Academy of Music, which had been built by a company of gentlemen as a permanent home for this style of amusement. This, it will be understood, was the house destroyed by fire in May, 1866; the present Academy, renewed on the same site, was opened early in 1868.

In September was opened the theatre best known as

the Winter Garden, but first called by the cumbrous title of the New York Theatre and Metropolitan Opera House, built upon the ruins of Metropolitan Hall and the La Farge House.

This theatre bore many titles in its day. Toward the close of 1855, Laura Keene remodelled it and named it Laura Keene's Varieties. In the autumn of 1856 Burton came into possession and called it Burton's New Theatre. Three years later it acquired the style of the Winter Garden or Conservatory of the Arts, under which title it was the scene of many notable performances. I remember once seeing General Winfield Scott in a theatre at one of the performances of "Hamlet" by Edwin Booth; he won almost more attention than did the play. Owing to his age and infirmity he chose to wait for easier exit until the audience should have dispersed, but the people lingered, and when the veteran appeared at the rear of the spacious lobby he found it closely packed on both sides in deep ranks, a convenient open space being left for him in the middle. Down this space he passed slowly, bowing to right and left, amid silence and the respectful regard of the company. The general at this time was past eighty, but his noble proportions were scarce harmed by age, his courtesy was becoming, and the behavior of the casual company was a notable instance of public good-breeding.

September 30, the city was thrown into an exceptional commotion on learning that the Collins Line steamer *Arctic*, Captain James E. Luce, had foundered off George's Bank, in consequence of a collision in a fog with the French steamer *Vesta*, and that out of four hundred and eight passengers and crew only sixty-three were saved. The wife, daughter, and a son of Mr. Collins were lost. Captain Luce was saved.

The first officer, Mr. Gourlay, had been sent in a boat to learn if the *Vesta* required assistance (Captain Luce

being unaware of the damage to his vessel), and the chief engineer, with some of his officers and crew, stealthily took one of the steamer's boats and put off. It occurred, however, that neither the boat of the officer nor that of the engineer, or their occupants, were ever seen or heard of.

October 27, Park Place was opened through the grounds of Columbia College to College Place.

The Rev. Dr. Horatio Potter was consecrated bishop in November, and began his administration of the diocese of New York.

All men of my age, and approximating thereto, may refer to many of the customs, occurrences, and conveniences of the past years as being more rational, creditable, and comfortable than many of the present time. Thus: I refer to the Park Theatre (Old Drury) with pride in the talent and humor there displayed and the pleasures we have enjoyed—*Hæc meminisse me juvat*—in the instructive, rational, and proper performances there: notably, those of the Keans, Cooper, the elder Booth, and Wallack; the Kembles, Placide, Caldwell, Power, Matthews, Barnes, Ritchings, Miss Kelly, the Woods, Mrs. Vernon, Charlotte Cushman, Ellen Tree, Clara Fisher, and where a legitimate drama was held to be superior to the exhibition of "supplemented" figures and "tights"; justly priding ourselves that the senseless, absurd, inconsistent, tinselled, vulgar, and immodest spectacles that are now presented to us, would not then have been tolerated.

In referring to the pleasure I have enjoyed at this theatre, I am of the opinion that it is easier for one to express himself fully, if not eloquently, upon his griefs than to do justice to a recital of his pleasures.

CHAPTER XXV

1855, 1856, 1857.—FERNANDO WOOD, 1855-1857, MAYOR

1855. At this date the City of Philadelphia had introduced into its Fire Department several steam fire-engines, which were readily and successfully operated. I was at this time a member of our common council, and having witnessed, on invitation, the operation of one of the engines in Philadelphia, on my return I essayed to have a committee appointed to visit that city, examine the working of their engines, and report to the Board. There were at this time two firemen in the Board, and my resolution was not only opposed, but was received with derision. It was not allowed to entertain any measure, or to act in any manner opposed to the views or convenience of "our noble firemen," or to arrest their amusement in competitive racing and working their engines, with an occasional display of the fraternal regard that existed between rival companies (in some well-known instances even to the degree of arresting an engine while a fire was raging), which was so manifestly apparent in the interchange of epithets in no wise conspicuous for delicacy or refinement of sentiment, and in the projection of brickbats, stones, and any convenient missiles. To destroy such a source of amusement of our firemen, by the introduction of steam fire-engines, was not to be thought of. In a brief period after this the resort to steam became a necessity, and it was gradually introduced.

The city of Cincinnati employed steam fire-engines at this time, and one of them (built by A. B. Latta) was

exhibited here in the City Hall Park in February. An exempt company, using our hand-engine No. 42, competed with the steamer, and in each of three successive trials exceeded it slightly in the distance to which a stream was thrown. But, after the trials, the men of the hand-engine were exhausted, while the steamer was fresh. It was not long after this that the general resort to steam was compelled.

Castle Garden was in this year appropriated and used as an immigrant *dépot*, where all immigrants were received, sheltered, and informed as to the manner of reaching their destinations, and whence they were transported to the different railroad stations from which they were to proceed on their journeys.

February 24, "Bill" Poole, Lewis Baker, and others of that class met late at night in the bar-room of Stanwix Hall in Broadway, opposite to the Metropolitan Hotel. "Paudeen" McLaughlin, a notorious character, challenged Poole to fight, who did not notice him, whereupon one of the party, James Turner, drew a revolver and, resting it on his fore-arm, shot at Poole, but wounded himself, but with a second discharge his ball hit Poole in the leg. Baker then, without drawing his revolver, discharged it, while in his coat-pocket, directed at Poole, the ball entering his heart; notwithstanding this, he, to the wonder and amazement of the surgical fraternity, retained life for fourteen days. Poole was one of the intense Americans. He came to a not wholly inappropriate end. Many will remember the lithographs that were widely displayed in his memory, presenting a handsome man's portrait draped with national flags, and having underneath Poole's "last words": "I die a true American," by which the notion of his eminent patriotism was no doubt widely perpetuated. We have heard that his true last words were: "By —, boys, I'm a goner!"

Baker escaped in a brig bound for the Canary Islands. At this time George Law was considered to be the leading candidate of the Native American party for President, and in support of that position he individually chartered the clipper bark *Grapeshot* to follow Baker and arrest him on the high seas before he reached a foreign port. Upon the evidence of such purpose on the part of Law and his friends, Mayor Wood requested me to proceed to Washington and essay to have Baker brought back by a national vessel. I proceeded there and laid the matter before Wm. L. Marcy, the Secretary of State, who introduced me to the President (Franklin Pierce), and upon my statement of the case, Mr. Marcy sent for the Portuguese Minister, and asked if his Government would allow Baker to be extradited. He promptly replied that it would not. The *Grapeshot* arrived at the Islands before the vessel with Baker, from which on her arrival he was taken out, brought back and tried for murder three times, the jury in each case failing to agree, and he was eventually discharged from custody.

Trinity Chapel, begun by Trinity Parish in 1851, was on April 17, this year, consecrated before it was quite completed. It was entirely finished in 1856.

The first regatta of the New York Yacht Club, when on its annual cruise, was held this year off Glen Cove, over the course around the stepping-stones; the prize was won by the *Julia*.

William M. Thackeray revisited this country toward the close of the year, repeating the public success which he had achieved on his earlier visit in 1852, and renewing the private friendships which were so agreeable to those who welcomed him here. He gave again his earlier course of lectures on the "English Humorists of the Eighteenth Century," and added the course on the "Four Georges."

September 3, the great Rachel was first seen by an

American audience at the New York Theatre, etc., better remembered by our public as the Winter Garden; remaining there until October 20, during which time she played a dozen parts. She caught a cold in this house which ultimately caused her death. After visiting Boston she was seen at Niblo's for a brief period, making her final appearance in New York on November 17, and her last appearance on any stage at Charleston, a month later. She sought relief from her pulmonary disorder through a winter spent in Havana, and returned in the spring to France, where she died in January, 1858. This is not the place for an estimate of Mme. Rachel's powers, but the memory of them is still fresh with those who saw her forty years ago, though she was worn and ill during the whole of her American tour.

Speculation in this and the following year ran riot. Cotton lands, town lots, guano, gold-mines, etc., were put upon the market; the originators in many cases "watering" the stock, and in others selling out and leaving the outside public to develop the schemes. In addition to the field of ordinary stock operations, a positive craze, so to term it, was developed in the desire to procure foreign or fancy poultry, and poultry brokers appeared upon the scene—Chittagongs, Shanghaes, Cochin Chinas, Dorkings, and Creoles were bought and sold at enormous prices, ranging from fifty dollars to over one hundred dollars per pair.

Delmonico's restaurant at Broadway and Chambers Street was first opened in this year. Chambers Street was opened from Chatham Street to James' Slip.

The Academy of Music was now managed by Mr. W. H. Payne, a well-known resident of the city, with Maretzek as conductor, and Mme. Lagrange, Brignoli, Amodio, etc., in the company. Performances began October 1. The business was bad, and the season came to an end early in January.

Eighth Avenue Railroad opened and commenced operation, from Fifty-ninth Street to Vesey Street and Broadway.

1856. January 23d, the Collins steamer *Pacific*, Captain Eldridge, left Liverpool with 45 passengers and a crew of 141 men; she was never seen or heard of after. Her day of leaving was three days before that of the *Persia*, a new vessel of the Cunard Line. The opposition between the two lines was then at its extreme of banters and bets. Captain Eldridge is reported to have made an ill-timed, if not profane, declaration regarding his course with the *Persia*, which arrived in due season, reporting not to have seen the *Pacific*, but to have encountered much field ice. The occasion of the *Pacific's* loss was evident; she had run into a field of ice, and as she was planked with yellow pine, without a collision bulkhead, she must have sunk with great rapidity, as not even a vestige of her was ever seen.

The New Bowery was opened from the south side of Chatham Street to Franklin Square, and Cliff, between Beekman and Ferry streets, was widened. The North German Lloyd's line of steamers between New York and Bremen was established.

April 23, occurred the benefit and last appearance upon the stage of "Old Joe Cowell," in his pet part of *Crack*, in which he had begun at the Park Theatre in 1821. He was well known everywhere.

May 25, the last services were held in the old "Brick Church," which yielded its site to the *Times* building, the purchase having been made, despite the assertion that a condition of the gift to the church of the site, was that it should ever be occupied for a church.

A great public ceremony occurred on July 4, at the dedication of Henry K. Brown's bronze equestrian statue of Washington, erected in Union Square, almost on the very spot where the citizens received the Commander-in-

Chief when he was entering New York on Evacuation Day, November 25, 1783. The First Division paraded on occasion of the dedication, and an oration was delivered by the Rev. Dr. George W. Bethune.

August 30, was burned the Latting Observatory, a tall tower that had been built near the Crystal Palace (almost on the present site of the Century Club) as an attraction to visitors at the World's Fair. The spectacle of the fire was very imposing, with its two hundred and eighty feet of flame upright in the air.

September 4, Mr. and Mrs. John Wood first appeared in this city at Niblo's and later Mrs. Wood at Wallack's.

At Niblo's Pauline Genet, of the Ravel company, met with a fatal accident by her clothing catching fire from a gas-jet in the theatre, inflicting horrible injuries.

Perhaps this was the first season of German opera in *German*. The *prima donna* was Mme. Johanssen, the conductor, Carl Bergmann, with Theodore Thomas for concert-meister or leader.

September 8, Burton's New Theatre, late Laura Keane's Varieties (in Broadway, opposite Bond Street), was opened with a good company.

The General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, now 18 East Sixteenth Street, which was organized in 1785 and incorporated in 1792, founded the Mechanics' School and Apprentices' Library in 1820; inaugurated a course of instructive lectures in 1833, and in this year added a Reading Room to its Library. Later (1889) it instituted free scholarships.

The New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, organized and incorporated in 1817, in 1818 occupied a room in the Almshouse in Chambers Street, then at 41 Warren Street. 1819, Legislature granted it a moiety of the tax on lotteries; 1829, on Fiftieth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, site consisting of one acre donated by the city, and now occupied by Columbia

College; 1853, sold and purchased land on Washington Heights (Boulevard) between One hundred and sixty-second and One hundred and sixty-fifth streets, December 4; and in this year erected a new building.

1857. This was a winter of severe and long-continued cold with heavy snows, communication between different parts of the country being greatly deranged. In the southern portion of New York the mercury fell to 28° below zero.

January 3, Dr. Harvey Burdell, a dentist residing at 31 Bond Street, was discovered in the morning to have been murdered; not only were the walls of his apartment smeared and sprinkled with blood, but the hall, rails, and stairway leading to the room were spotted with it, and, upon examining the body, no less than fifteen wounds in it, from a poniard or like instrument, were discovered.

A Mrs. Cunningham, a widow, leased the house from the doctor and resided there with her two daughters. Upon examination of her before a Coroner's jury, she claimed to have been married to the doctor a few months previous; she was imprisoned, indicted, tried, and acquitted. The mystery of the murder never was cleared up.

The case excited a general and widespread interest in both the city and country. If Mrs. Cunningham could prove marriage with the doctor she would be entitled to a wife's share of his estate, and if she bore a child to him she would obtain the entire control and enjoyment of its revenue. To attain this desirable end, it was indispensable that a child should be procured, and the woman forthwith commenced to exhibit the appearance consonant with her purpose, and at the assigned time a new-born infant was received from Bellevue Hospital, which she had obtained through the aid of an attendant physician. But he, while consenting to aid her in her scheme, disclosed the plan to the District Attorney,

A. Oakey Hall, who, when her claim in behalf of the child was presented, exposed the fraud, and she and her daughters left the city.

I was present at the examination of one of the daughters before the Coroner, and I conceived a very decided opinion of the case, which, so far as the Coroner was concerned, was universally held to have been so very ill conducted that a presentation was made to the Governor, asking for the removal of such an incompetent official.

January 21, Maurice Strakosch undertook management at the Academy of Music, opening with Teresa Parodi in "Lucrezia." A week later Mme. Cora de Wilhorst, daughter of one of our most worthy and respected citizens,—she had married abroad and after her return home separated from her husband,—made a very successful *début* as *Lucia*, and increased her reputation in other parts which she played during the short season.

April 15, Battery Place and Broadway from Fifty-seventh to Sixtieth Street were ordered to be widened.

Amendments to the new charter were enacted by the Legislature, by which many important changes were made; notably, transferring the Police Department from the city to the State, which act was held by many of both political parties to be offensively opposed to home rule; the removal of the Mayor and Recorder from the Board of Supervisors, and the ceding to the State the appointment of a Board of Excise and a commission to direct and superintend the opening and construction of the Central Park. In addition to which, the charter or municipal election was changed to the first Tuesday in December; the boards of aldermen and councilmen to be reduced to seventeen for the former, and twenty-four for the latter, six of which were to be elected from each of the four senatorial districts. In 1860 it was essayed to change this charter, but the attempt failed.

The Fenian Brotherhood, a political association, designed to effect a separation of Ireland from British rule, was organized in this city, which was selected as the basis of operation here, in Canada, and Ireland. Later (1866) they attempted an invasion of Canada and signally failed.

This was a year of great financial distress; as a consequence, many operatives were without work, and in the severe weather the improvident suffered. The Common Council was compelled to distribute food to the poor to prevent rioting; many laborers were put to work in grading the Central Park and in pulling down and removing the material of the Institution, formerly the Almshouse, etc., on Chambers Street, now the site of the new Court House. Nevertheless, there was much distress. Bakers' wagons in some instances were attacked in the streets, and some other acts of violence were committed. The Arsenal in Centre Street was guarded by the police; the Custom House and Assay Office by United States Infantry.

May 21, Ascension Day, the chapel of St. Luke's Hospital was first opened.

The Police Department from 1853 was governed and directed by the Mayor, Recorder, and City Judge, and the appointment of its officers and patrolmen was held to be in the interest of the city. When Fernando Wood (Democrat) became Mayor, he used the prerogative of appointments for his personal and political advancement, which action caused such general dissatisfaction that the State Legislature in this year enacted an amended charter for New York, providing separate dates for State and municipal elections, and distributing responsibility in local affairs through separate governments for city and county. By this charter also was constituted a Metropolitan Police District, including the counties of New York, Kings, Westchester, and Richmond, which were placed under a new Board of Commissioners, appointed

by the State. This action being at variance with the political interests of Fernando Wood, the Mayor, he proceeded to declare the unconstitutionality of the act, and declined to disband the existing municipal police or to surrender the police property then in possession of the city; but in May the Supreme Court decided the act to be in accordance with the Constitution. Under the advice of Wood, however, a great number of captains of precincts and patrolmen refused to submit to the decision; whereupon the new Board (the Metropolitan, it was termed) dismissed the captains and the patrolmen, alleged to exceed seven hundred in number; but they disregarded the action and remained on duty, Wood filling the vacancies caused by those who submitted to the new Board, and it in like manner filling the vacancies of those who remained with the old Board, or rather with Wood, for the Recorder, James M. Smith, differed with him and opposed his action.

Thus there were two details of police.

Superintendent George W. Matsell, having refused to obey the orders of the Metropolitan Department, was dismissed by it.

In order then to arrest such a condition of the matter, a warrant was issued by Smith to Matsell to arrest Wood, who did not recognize it and resisted. Smith then directed the Sheriff to serve it, which Wood also resisted.

The office of Street Commissioner becoming vacant, the Governor of the State, John A. King, appointed D. D. Conover to fill it; but he, with the new police who endeavored to support him in obtaining possession of the office and its records, was driven from the City Hall by the old police under Wood, who claimed the appointing power. Warrants for Wood's arrest were asked for and issued by the courts, and Conover returned to enforce them by the aid of the new Metropolitan



Police. This action being resisted by Wood and his police, an affray occurred in which many persons were injured.

I was present when Matsell rushed into the Mayor's office and exultingly announced that his men had defeated the enemy.

The Sheriff then essayed to serve his warrant for the arrest of Wood, who seized his mace and declared that he would not submit to arrest.

Singularly and fortuitously, the Seventh Regiment, at this time *en route* to Boston to participate in the ceremonies to be held in commemoration of the completion of the Bunker Hill Monument, was marching down Broadway, and being summoned to interfere, turned into the Park. The Mayor, entertaining the opinion that it was sent there to enforce the law of the State, submitted for the time; which action admits of the application of *Cælo tonantem credidimus Jovem regnare*, which in this case might be freely rendered, When he heard the band, he recognized the presence of the military.

When one considers Wood's deficiencies of early life and even early manhood, he was a marvel; and had he merited the confidence of the people, there is no position in this country he might not have attained. He had an agreeable presence, and as he advanced in years and in political position, he assumed a dignity and reserve of manner that became him. How he ever became enabled to address an audience with the self-possession, argument, and eloquence that he exhibited here and in Congress, elicited the wonder of all who knew him and his antecedents. In political advancement, in addition to his want of personal magnetism, he handicapped himself by committing the grievous error of sacrificing an old friend or partisan for a new one, entertaining the idea that the one was in possession and the other a gain; in fact, in all his political relations with his supporters, he fully illus-

trated a saying of James I., *Qui nescit dissimulare, nescit regnare*. But unfortunately for his national advancement he was not only charged with two financial deficiencies of exceptional character, but, Cassio-like, "much condemned to have an itching palm, to sell and mart his offices for gold to undeservers," and like to Richard III., he could have said, "Why let them say, they can but say I had the crown, and was not fool. . ."

Very soon after the organization of this newly created or Metropolitan police referred to, the levies and tributes put upon and demanded of violators of the laws and ordinances, as developed by later exposures, were in full force, and so thoroughly organized was the system of the recovery of stolen property, when it was practicable to operate it with impunity, that offenders escaped unless the tax was too large for the business, and as a result they had either to submit to ruin or be arrested. In illustration of the connection between the police and the thieves, an intimate acquaintance of mine, returning late one night from a convivial party, where he had been constrained to follow the *dicta* of a "Court of Dover," became wholly oblivious of what occurred after his leaving the house of entertainment, until he awoke in a cell of a police station, *minus* his watch, money, breast pin, and sleeve buttons; in fact, he had, in the parlance of the police, "been gone through." Desiring to recover his watch, he was advised to signify his wish to an officer in authority, when he was told, if he would come in the afternoon, he would receive the watch. He did so, received it, and paid seventy-five dollars.

The trouble, however, was not entirely ended. A riotous rising occurred in the Five Points on July 3, and something like a panic was caused in the city; but the Seventh was recalled from Boston, and with the aid of other regiments of the Guard put down the riot, in which six persons were killed and one hundred were

wounded. Another rising shortly afterward at Anthony and Centre streets, and a later one (on July 13 and 14) in the Seventeenth Ward, were disposed of in like manner.

Eventually the members of the Metropolitan Police who were injured sued Wood and obtained a verdict of two hundred and fifty dollars for each, which Wood was compelled to pay. The Legislature finally by act reimbursed him.

During this conflict of the police the detection and repression of crimes were measurably neglected, and the question of *quis custodiet ipsos custodes* might have been very properly submitted.

Frank Leslie, *soi-disant*, that being an assumed name, publisher of the *Illustrated News*, caused an examination to be made of the cow stables of the Johnsons on Ninth Avenue, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets, and, as a result, he published with illustrations an account of the manner in which cows were stabled the year round, fed wholly on warm swill from the distillery; reciting that the operation of milking was conducted in a manner quite regardless of the requirements of purity and cleanliness, and that for want of exercise, and enervation from the warm food, the cows became diseased; that in many instances their tails sloughed off, etc. The community was shocked at the exposure, and its credulity put to a crucial test, when he exposed the manner in which some hundred cows were stalled in sheds and fed with slops or swill from an adjoining distillery. I, in company with some of my colleagues, made an official visit to the stables, and could verify the statements.

Leslie was summoned before a committee of the Common Council, and in consequence of one of its members evidencing and acting upon his eager desire to shield the parties inculpated in the cruelty to the animals

and offence to the public, the investigation partook somewhat more of a trial of Leslie than of the perpetrators of the offences charged, and from the circumstance that, upon his arrival in the country, he had dropped his natal name and assumed that of Leslie, he was subjected to an ungenerous examination, with the evident purpose of negating his charges by the application of the legal term *falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus*, which was used to distract the committee from the purpose of its appointment, but partisanship so evidently venal in its character did not avail, and the charges that had been made were fully established.

So general was the knowledge of the outrage in the cruelty to the animals and the imposition of an unsanitary article of food upon the public, that "swill or stump tailed milk" was for a long period a general term in expression of insufficiency or deception.

This was an exciting summer. In August the Ohio Life and Trust Co. failed, owing seven million dollars, an act which ushered in a period of sudden, far-reaching disaster. The Massachusetts and the Philadelphia banks suspended specie payment, and the New York Legislature authorized our banks to suspend for a year. The crisis of this period was in mid-October, when the New York banks did suspend, to resume payment, however, at the middle of December. Besides the more serious distress, there was much private annoyance during this time from the fact that owing to general distrust bank-notes were commonly uncurrent save at the places of their issue. Not infrequent were the cases, several of which were known to me, where travellers with plenty of money, which was perfectly sound and good, found themselves in places remote from their homes suddenly reduced to temporary want, because, in the universal suspicion and excitement, all notes were refused save those of neighboring banks whose condition was posi-

tively known. From this cause important journeys were delayed in progress, and many little private tragedies were enacted.

A great religious revival began and continued to increase, according to the law by which these manifestations accompany periods of general misfortune.

In August the first Atlantic cable, having been laid successfully, gave signs of promise, but it soon ceased to work in any degree.

November 23, the remains of Major-General Worth were removed from Greenwood Cemetery to the City Hall, where they lay in state until the 25th, when they were taken under military escort to the place of the monument now standing at Twenty-fifth Street, between Broadway and Fifth Avenue, and there deposited, the monument being dedicated.

It was in this year that, the possession of the land within the boundaries of the proposed Central Park having been obtained on the 5th of February, by the award of the Commissioners of damage and benefit, the Park Commissioners assumed control and appointed as landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, to whose genius and skill we owe that delightful pleasure-ground as it exists to-day.

The increasing dissatisfaction evinced by the residents of the eastern shore of Staten Island, as to the existence of the Marine Hospital there, induced the State to transfer it to Sandy Hook; but the State of New Jersey, as possessor of the territory, objected; hence a second removal became indispensable, and Seguin's Point on the south side of Staten Island was selected and occupied. Soon after, the residents of the vicinity burned the hospitals there; whereupon, in 1859, a steamer's hulk, the *Falcon*, was obtained and used as a floating hospital.

The project of constructing a suspension bridge between this city and Brooklyn being entertained,

Thomas A. Roebling, an engineer of Trenton, N. J., designed one and estimated its cost at less than two million five hundred thousand dollars. After the passage of the law authorizing its construction, he was appointed the engineer, and upon his death, which occurred soon after, his son, John A. Roebling, was appointed to succeed him, and he prosecuted the work to a successful completion.

In this year the New York Historical Society first occupied its present building. The Broadway Tabernacle was sold, and the Association soon after removed to its present location at Sixth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street.

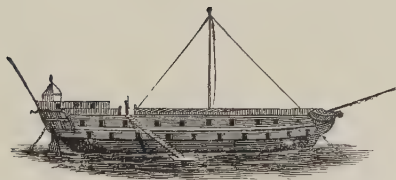
The public was much surprised and interested in reading the announcement of the marriage of Miss Mary Ann Baker, daughter of a very much esteemed citizen, to John Dean, her father's coachman. So distasteful was the marriage to her father that he essayed to remove her from the country, and also to have her declared a lunatic, in both of which attempts he failed, and soon after the affair lapsed into oblivion.

The Orphans' Home and Asylum of the Protestant Episcopal Church was organized in 1852, and incorporated in this year, Forty-ninth Street, between Fourth and Lexington avenues, for orphans and half orphans, three to eight years of age. The incurably diseased or mentally imperfect are not received.

As steamers have almost wholly absorbed the transport of passengers, and as sailing vessels other than those employed on whaling voyages or short coast routes will soon disappear, a record of the size and equipment of one of our many ships trading between this and Europe may become interesting: thus *The Queen of the West*, built here in 1843, by Brown & Bell for Woodhull Minturn's line of Liverpool Packets. Her dimensions were length, 179 feet 4 inches; beam, 37 feet 6 inches;

hold, 20 feet, and tonnage, 1160. The cabins were 78 feet in length and berthed 58 adults, as well as having accommodations for steerage passengers, all in addition to a full freight in accordance with her capacity to bear it.

In this year the Cooper Union was built.



PRISON SHIP "JERSEY," 1777-1783.

CHAPTER XXVI

1858-1859.—DANIEL F. TIEMANN, MAYOR

1858. THE corner-stone of St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, between Fiftieth and Fifty-first streets, was laid. The entire plot of land extending to Madison Avenue was bought of Francis Cooper in 1829, by the Roman Catholics, for the sum of \$5550.⁴

A great enlargement of the Astor Library was made by Mr. William B. Astor.

The vast religious revival then in progress became more widely extended, and increased in fervor.

January 17, the first practical test of two new steam fire-engines occurred, both of these newly acquired machines being employed at a fire. Chief Harry Howard made a report regarding them to the Common Council, the substance of which was that he "was free to say" that he did not think much of them.

Niblo's Theatre was occupied by Dan Rice's Circus until late in March, when the Ravels followed for two months.

Mary Devlin at Burton's New Theatre made her *début* in New York, playing *Juliette* to Miss Cushman's *Romeo*. Miss Devlin was much admired on our stage; she married Edwin Booth in July, 1860, retiring soon after to private life. She died in February, 1863. Placide, Blake, and Brougham were all in the cast of "London Assurance."

February 3. The steamer *Baltic* left Liverpool on the last voyage of the famous Collins Line of steamers to Liverpool, it finally succumbing under pressure of the loss of the *Arctic* and *Pacific* and adverse conditions.

March 1. At Laura Keene's Theatre, Miss Polly Marshall made her first appearance on that stage.

April 2, Central Park extended to One hundred and tenth Street and on 17th Madison Avenue extended.

May 11, three Sisters and nine patients moved into St. Luke's Hospital, and the regular work of that noble charity was thus begun.

In June, and again in July, accidents befell the new Atlantic cable, but on August 6 all the long effort expended on this essay issued in success. My readers who have grown up in a world of cables can scarce imagine the enthusiasm—or I might say the transport—which this extraordinary event created. Queen Victoria congratulated the President in a despatch across the ocean, and Mr. Buchanan replied to the Queen. The "Cable Celebration" in New York will be long remembered; the city was illuminated, *Te Deum* was sung in Trinity Church, a banquet was given to Cyrus W. Field, whose energy had accomplished the great work. The whole land broke out into celebration. Nevertheless, the cable, that had cost so much labor and money, and was the cause of so much rejoicing, shortly broke down entirely and again there was silence between the continents, to the bitter disappointment of projectors and people alike.

During the illuminations in New York, the cupola of the City Hall caught fire and the upper story suffered considerable damage, which was not for a long time repaired.

Purdy's National, which had been busy since the fall with a variety of performances, in which the leading attractions were G. L. Fox, F. S. Chanfrau, Lawrence Barrett, H. A. Perry, "Yankee" Locke, Fanny Herring, and Emily Mestayer, was closed on August 30.

September 20, Marietta Piccolomini made her first appearance in America at Burton's in "La Traviata," as *Violetta*, a part written for her by the composer. The

effect produced by this artist upon our susceptible youth may be inferred from Artemus Ward's tribute to her, which may be found in the collected works of that social philosopher, and a summary of which is contained in his single sentence to the effect that "Fassinatin peple is her best holt."

October 3, Burton with his company, under Eddy's management, succeeded the Ravels at Niblo's. At his benefit, on the day and evening of the 15th, the house was besieged by tremendous audiences, and Burton, in the parts of *Timothy Toodle*, *Ebenezer Sudden*, *Toby Tramp*, and *Mr. Micawber*, was received with overwhelming applause. This proved to be his last appearance in New York. After a little travel in the provinces he returned here, where he died February 9, 1860, at the age of fifty-six, leaving a handsome fortune and a remarkable dramatic and literary library.

The receipt by me this morning of the third price-list or catalogue within a week, of wines, liquors, etc., from different firms of the city, in which the champagnes of many producers are included, further reminds me of the difference in social customs of the day and those of fifty years past. A schoolmate of mine, whose family resided on Broadway and maintained a carriage, gave dinners, evening parties, etc., told me some time about 1830 that, until he was nineteen years of age he had never to his knowledge seen a bottle of champagne, and then only at the house of a French gentleman on the occasion of a great festivity.

The Fifth Avenue Hotel, which had been commenced in 1856, was completed and leased by Paran Stevens for a term of years.

Up to this time the street cars of the Harlem Railroad ran from opposite the Hall of Records to Forty-second Street; after this they ran through Madison Avenue to Seventy-ninth Street.

The peculiar observance of the first day of January or "New Year's" as it was termed, originating with the primitive Dutch inhabitants, was maintained up to this time, when it rapidly lessened, until now (1895) the



NO. 1 BROADWAY, 1859

ancient custom of visiting on New Year's Day has wholly passed away. In order the better to explain how and to what extent this custom was observed, I give my experience in the year 1833. In company with a friend each fortified with his list of parties, or where to call, we began at nine in the morning, and at five in the afternoon

we ceased, having visited sixty-seven houses. In some cases, in consequence of the great number of "callers" in a house, we merely walked in and said "Happy New Year," or "Compliments of the Season," "Thank you, we dare not indulge," "Good-morning." At other houses, when the young ladies were especially interesting, a few minutes' conversation and a sip of cherry bounce or coffee, "Good-morning," and off to another house. Such was the routine of the young men, while the elder, having fewer visits to make, remained longer at their calls and indulged in the table, lavishly spread with crullers, doughnuts, cookies (New Year's cakes), pickled and stewed oysters, chicken, turkey, mince-pies, jellies, etc., and with wines and liqueurs.

No. 102 Fifth Avenue, 36 by 80 feet, was sold in this year for \$31,200.

October 15, Tom Taylor's play, "Our American Cousin," was produced at Laura Keene's Theatre, and had a run that extended beyond anything before known on our stage. Mr. Joseph Jefferson, in his "Autobiography," remarks that "the success of the play proved the turning-point in the career of three persons," Miss Keene, E. A. Sothorn, and himself. Meantime at Wallack's was put on for counter attraction "The Veteran," composed by J. Lester Wallack, a spectacular melodrama; which also had a great (though less) success. The necessary sacrifice of Lester Wallack's whiskers to the similitude of a French officer in this part excited general lamentation among the young womanhood of the city. The elder Wallack played *Colonel Delmar*, and Brougham was *Oflán Agan*, an Irish convert to Mohammedanism, who had not altogether laid aside some of the natural O'Flanagan tastes, as for drink and the like. Some of his scenes with Mrs. Vernon as *Mrs. McShake* were very amusing, and the piece contained many military effects, picturesquely presented.

October 18, the city, as well as the whole country, was excited by news of John Brown's raid into Virginia to free the slaves.

The House of the Good Shepherd opened at foot of Ninetieth Street and East River. Objects, the reformation of inebriates and fallen women who wish to reform; the care of those who may be in danger of falling, and of the girls committed to it by the city magistrates. No involuntary detention or regard to creed or nationality.

November 9, the bust of Schiller, in its secluded nook of the Ramble in Central Park, was unveiled.

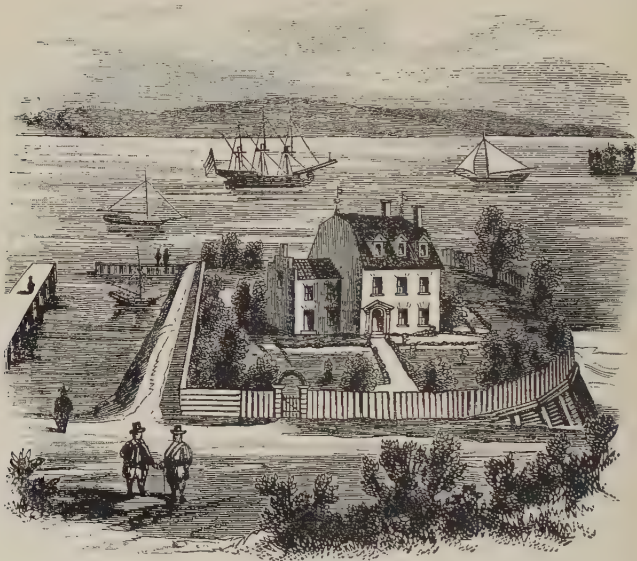
The *Dreadnaught*, Captain S. Samuels, the clipper which once had arrived here from Liverpool the same day the Cunard steamer *Canada* reached Boston, that had left Liverpool the day before, in this year made the run hence to Rock Light, Liverpool, in thirteen days and eight hours.

Depau Row in Bleecker Street, between Thompson and Sullivan, constructed in 1846, was once in distinguished occupancy, but the unforeseen and rapid translation of our residents beyond this, soon left it in the background, and its occupation and surroundings, from about 1870, have so materially changed, that it would be difficult for a passer-by of the period to credit its former purpose and occupation. It is questionable if a single native occupies any part of it. Passing it on a late occasion, its condition reminded me of the *Hew! quantum mutatus ab illo!*

1859. In addition to the customs of the early period of these "Reminiscences," before recited: A late visit to a public horse stable, erroneously termed "livery," reminds me of the difference of some of the day and those of the time of my first observation of them. Thus:

A furnished office, matting, prints, fire-place, wash-stand, harness and clothes closets, gas light, etc., as

opposed to a very common and rough-built wooden structure, for there was not a brick or stone one for this use in the city, rarely an office proper; the horses led to the nearest street pump for water, and not a blanket



GOVERNOR STUYVESANT'S HOUSE, WHITE HALL, ERECTED 1658

for them, however cold the weather, these not being in general use even in private stables; but as some amelioration of their condition, horses' tails were seldom "docked"; occasionally "pricked" and, in the teams of a few young men, their ears were sometimes clipped, but that cruel device, a "Kemble Jackson" rein, was unknown.

The manner in which our street lamps are lighted is so very different from that practised even for a very long period after oil was replaced by gas, that I hold it worthy of being recited. Thus:

A street gas lamp can now be lighted in $2\frac{4}{10}$ seconds, and the lighting of the oil lamps involved the use of a ladder, a vessel of spirits of turpentine, a lantern and a torch, and if by the severity of the weather the torch was extinguished, the relighting of it, before friction or loco foco matches were known, was a dilatory matter. On the following morning the ladder was again required, the lamp refilled, and the wick trimmed.

In addition to the lamps being far apart, and the light they gave very insufficient, they were not required to be lighted on moonlight nights, but the contractor for the lighting held and practised that moonlight nights were designated by the Calendar, and not by the accident of an obscured sky.

"This is Easter Sunday, and the style of women's bonnets awakens remembrances of those of the early period of these "Reminiscences"; and I am of the conviction that if a woman had then appeared upon the streets with one of the straggling constructions of the day which a sailor would term a "hurrah's nest," she would have been held to be a second *Ophelia*, and would have risked arrest as a wandering lunatic.

In this connection one is reminded of Pope's

"In words and fashions, the same rule will hold,
Alike fantastic, be they new or old :
Be not the first, by whom the new are tried,
Or yet the last to lay the old aside."

As the public notices of the meetings of the Tammany Society have been discontinued of late years, and as they were of an unusual form, I think it well to preserve a record of them. They were published at the head of the inside page of a Democratic paper, and after notifying the members of the meeting and when it was to occur, they would close in accordance with the season and the year:

In this year and month of October, thus: Season of Fruits, Tenth Moon, Year of Discovery 367th, of Independence 84th, and of the Society 73d.

October 13, Frances A., a daughter of ex-Lieutenant W. A. Bartlett of the U. S. Navy, and a shipmate of mine in 1837-38, was married in St. Patrick's Church by Archbishop Hughes to a very rich gentleman from Cuba, Don Estaban Santa Cruz de Oviedo, and in consequence of the value of the diamonds and pearls, estimated at one hundred thousand dollars, he gave his bride, this marriage was attended with more *éclat* than any that ever preceded or followed it here. The ceremony was termed and universally known as the "Diamond Wedding," and as it was the first of such a character, a description of all the parties concerned and a recital of all that occurred in connection with it were themes, not only for our city papers but for those of the country at large and even abroad. Mr. Stedman's poem, "The Diamond Wedding," refers to this.

The curiosity to witness the wedding was so general that, for the first time in this city, cards of admission to the church were issued, and the services of a squad of policemen were necessary to control the crowd of vulgar people who essayed to see the bride and groom.

Oviedo died soon after and, being without a direct heir, his wife under the Spanish laws was not entitled to a right of dower, and all the property that he had given her, which was held to be heir-looms, was taken away from her. She married again an Austrian baron, but so unfortunately that she now is in embarrassed circumstances.

Female cashiers, with the exception of one in Delmonico Brothers' Restaurant, when they opened it in 1831, in William Street, were wholly unknown here until within a few years. So novel was the practice that this place was patronized in some instances in order to verify the assertion that there was a woman cashier.

•

John Ordronaux, a sugar refiner at 28-30 Leonard Street, surprised all by the employment of his wife as bookkeeper and clerk.

These, however, were not really instances, as the present profuse employment of women is an instance, of social manners of our own civilization; they were merely French importations.

Pigeon-shooting, like horse-racing, has become afflicted with Anglomania. Retaining the gun below the elbow until the trap is sprung, and a restriction to a discharge from but one barrel, is changed, not only to holding it above the elbow before the trap "ground" is opened, but sighting with the gun and the privilege of a second discharge.

Prior to this year the Board of Aldermen constituted also the Board of Supervisors, and on January 4 a Board of twelve Supervisors that had been elected by the provisions of an Act of the Legislature of the 15th of April of the preceding year, convened and organized.

Ninth Avenue Railroad was opened and operated in this year.

In this year the Legislature repealed the restrictive Excise Law, alike to the "Maine Law," it had enacted in 1855. It was very strictly enforced. Under its provisions all dispensing of liquors was disallowed save for mechanical, chemical, or medicinal purposes (or wine for the Sacrament), save by citizens under severe bonds, with two sureties (householders), and the keeping of books with all particulars of sales open to public examination. Severe penalties provided imprisonment for first offence against two sections of the Act, and for second offence against one section.

Restrictions on transportation of liquors conformed to other requirements of the Act. Liquors kept in violation of the Act were declared to be a public nuisance.

CHAPTER XXVII

1860.—FERNANDO WOOD, MAYOR

1860. THIS last year of these "Reminiscences" was the last of a great historical period ending in the Civil War and changes consequent thereon. Near at hand as that upheaval was, the people generally, and specially those of Republican politics, refused to believe that in any case the Southern States would secede from the Union, and looked upon the many signs of coming trouble as only the excited accompaniments of an unusually ardent campaign for the Presidency, destined to disappear in renewed quiet when the election should be over. Those who held the contrary view were ridiculed by the majority. I remember that when one of my acquaintances declared himself unwilling to make some projected changes in his business because he thought that war between the States was probable, he was much laughed at, and with many persons his reputation as a man of sense and judgment suffered seriously.

In short, it was almost universally held in the North that the South never would secede, just as the South believed that in case of secession the North would not fight for the Union. Yet on December 20 South Carolina did secede, and before the year ended (December 26) Anderson had spiked the guns of Moultrie, abandoned that fort, and occupied Fort Sumter.

Yet, meanwhile, New York enjoyed a summer of unusual festivity. June 16, exceeding interest was excited not only in New York, but throughout the United States by the visit of the Japanese Embassy, including two princes of the reigning family, which

reached the city *via* Albany, and was landed and received at the Battery, and escorted by the municipal authorities and the military to their assigned quarters at the Metropolitan Hotel. Soon after, a *matinée* was given by Mr. Bennett of the *Herald* at his residence on Washington Heights, which was held to have been a very sumptuous and successful entertainment, and was followed by a ball and supper by the Corporation at the Embassy's quarters in the hotel. Tickets for admission to the entertainment were held in such estimation that they were purchased at extravagant prices.

The service on this occasion, according to authentic reports, was so far in excess of that of any previous entertainment of the kind that I forbear to describe it; one of the items, that of champagne, was given in thousands of bottles, the cost of the entertainment approximating a hundred thousand dollars.

Many of my readers will find it difficult to conceive the novelty to us, in that day, of things Japanese and the first appearance here of representatives of that ancient empire.

They may remember that this notable visit occurred but eight years after Commodore Perry's expedition to Japan, which first opened the way to any intercourse between ourselves and that nation, but it will be difficult or perhaps even impossible, for readers of modern times brought up amid surroundings of Japanese art, accustomed to deal in Japanese shops, familiar with Japanese gentlemen in our society, and used to the custom of summer tours in Japan, to picture to themselves the sense of absolute strangeness which this meeting with Japanese civilization imposed upon our most accomplished citizens in 1860. Probably it is well for us not to know what was the effect upon these high-bred Japanese, reared in a system of politeness so delicate as still to seem almost beyond Western comprehension, of their

contact with the New York aldermen, who on this occasion rioted even unusually in the unusual opportunity of gratuitous feasting. The Embassy was received everywhere with what we intended for distinguished honors, and the result of it was of great consequence in effect upon the future of Japan. It cannot be said that we grew very rapidly in knowledge of our new friends and their products, for it was quite a dozen years after 1860 that a merchant brought to New York a large invoice of Japanese objects of art, small and great, which filled a large shop, but which our citizens treated with almost entire indifference, much to his astonishment and discomfiture. These objects were many of them ancient, and all of them in the pure native style, unaffected by Western influence; such a collection as would excite keen interest in New York to-day; but it remained almost wholly unnoticed. The few whose culture or natural good taste could partly appreciate the new forms of art, bought such things from the collection as they could afford, but the bulk of it remained a dead weight on the importer's hands, and was finally disposed of by auction at absurdly low prices.

The cashier of a bank in this city who had taken from it in varied amounts, to meet his losses in stock speculation, a sum in excess of his capacity to repay, upon the approach of the period when his account was to be examined, made his position known to a lawyer, who advised him to take an amount equal to his deficiency, confess to the directors, and settle with them by restoring one-half of his indebtedness, and being permitted to resign. He followed the advice, with the addition of taking twice the amount of his deficiency, and then told the directors that if he was permitted to resign and no report made of the matter, his relations and friends would make up one-third of the amount, which being consented to, he paid the amount and resigned, with a sum equal to that of his losses in his possession.

Popular interest was again excited in July by arrival of the enormous steamer *Great Eastern*, which lay for a time on exhibition at the foot of Hammond Street, where she was visited by thousands who wondered at the proportions which justified her earlier name of *Leviathan*.

Other visitors of the summer were the Prince de Joinville and Lady Franklin, who came on an errand of gratitude to those who had generously aided in the search for her husband, Sir John, the Arctic explorer, whose fate had been discovered by McClintock in the year preceding.

October, the year's festivity reached its height with the visit of the Prince of Wales, who was greeted by immense throngs on his arrival here from Quebec *via* Boston. The harbor was full of steam and sailing craft, all in gay attire.

After the Prince had received the Mayor, etc., on board of the frigate in which he had arrived, which he did in dress suited to the occasion, he was taken to Castle Garden, where he received the military officers, and the time occupied in changing his dress, according to the etiquette of the ceremony, was so extended that night was approaching before the line of march entered Broadway, which was lined by fully one hundred thousand people, conspicuous among whom were women with infants in their arms, borne in order that they at some future period might say they had seen the Prince of Wales; so, as it was near the middle of October, and as the evening air then, under the most favorable circumstances of weather, is not salutary to infants or even lightly clad children and women, the result of over six hours (from two to eight) in the open air might have been predicted.

The Prince was escorted to the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where he was subjected to all the forms of attention which are supposed to be proper for distinguished visitors, which were received by him with admirable patience.

He was accompanied by the Duke of Newcastle and was heralded simply as the Baron Renfrew.

The delay that attends our public exhibitions and processions, for a people who are held to be active and enterprising, is remarkable. One of our late militia generals was notorious for his procrastination in moving his command beyond the time he had assigned. On the occasion of a grand "function" in a city in Europe, I witnessed an exhibition of promptness that would have put our officers to the blush. The time of march was fixed at 10 o'clock A. M., and before the city clock had ceased striking the hour, the word of command was given, and the head of the line was in advance motion.

On the 12th a ball was given to the Prince at the Academy of Music. The "Prince's Ball," long famous in our social history, was the occasion of great display and some jealousies and heart-burnings, and on the 13th an evening parade of the Fire Department was given in his honor.

The Presidential campaign was now active, popular



FORT CLINTON, AT M'GOWAN'S PASS

excitement running very high, ending in the election of Abraham Lincoln and some clearer indications of the purpose of the South. Considerable financial distress manifested itself; South Carolina seceded in the month of December, and the year which had been so full of gayety closed in trouble and fear.

The Metropolitan Police occupied at this time a building in White Street, near Broadway, afterward removing to the corner of Elm and Broome streets, and soon after commenced the erection of the present building in Mott and Mulberry streets. The opportunities presented to patrolmen for levying blackmail upon those whose pursuits or practice rendered them amenable to the ordinances, were availed of even at this early stage of the existence of the department.

The first tenement house, constructed as such, in this city (see p. 332) was lately taken down, as it was within the area of Corlear's Park. In 1860 there were several hundred of such houses, while now (1895) they have increased to many thousands. A census alone will reveal the number of their dwellers. Sixty-five of all ages is an average number for a house, and in some houses of but 25 feet front, on lots 100 feet in depth, 100 occupants are frequently found.

Mayor Wood suggested that all the Target companies in the city should meet on a certain day, and march in review before him at the City Hall. They concurred, and the display took place; but the aggregation of the companies was not a manifest success; whether the deficiency in the number of pioneers to adorn each company, or the absence of the prizes and the negro with his target was the cause, no one could determine; but on one point they agreed—that there was a void.

From that time the *éclat* of "target companies" waned, and with the exception of some one or two on Thanksgiving day, Christmas, or New Year's, the custom

is becoming somewhat like to the existence of "Gentlemen of the Old School," or "Buffaloes in the West"—it is dying out.

The introduction of steam fire-engines was still opposed in this year, and their advocates were termed enemies of the Volunteer Department and hirelings of the insurance companies. The steam-engines were declared in formal reports to want capability and quickness of operation, and therefore to be of no value, save perhaps as occasionally auxiliary to the hand machines. Most fires, it was said, were subdued in an early stage, by the quickness of the hand engines, so the steamers would most often not be needed. Nevertheless, it was scarce more than a year from this time that eleven steamers were in service, and, by the year 1865, twenty-seven were employed; so rapid was the change of opinion on this important subject.

The *World* newspaper was founded in June of this year; originally designed as a religious daily. *The Courier and Enquirer* was merged with it in 1861. Later it passed into Democratic hands, and for some time occupied a high position under control of Mr. Manton Marble.

The population of New York in this year slightly exceeded eight hundred and five thousand. This was the period when the city's growth began to depart substantially from John Pintard's famous estimate of New York's future population, which he made at the beginning of the century and which had been realized with close accuracy until this date. After 1860, Pintard's ingenious though simple calculation seems to go wildly wrong, since its result for the year 1900 is to give New York 5,257,493 inhabitants, or about two and a half times more than the census of what we used to call New York will probably count for that year. But of course Pintard could not allow for the devastation of war, which reduced the



PARK PLACE, 1836

city's decennial rate of increase from 56.27 per cent. between 1850 and 1860 to 16.96 per cent. for the next ten years—a loss never to be retrieved. Nor could he have foreseen the rise of our Western empire, with its multiplied great cities, all of which drew upon the East for their early capital stock of population; a cause which must have made at least some temporary diminution of our natural growth, and to which, together with the war, may be attributed the decline from our average decennial rate of increase which amounted to nearly sixty per cent. during the forty years from 1820 to 1860, to scarce more than twenty-three per cent. average for the thirty years of 1860 to 1890. But Pintard's estimate is to be further justified by more immediate considerations. We have to consider what he meant by "New York." He may not have foreseen consciously the difficulties of intra-mural travel which have driven so many New Yorkers into country districts for places of residence, but it is certain that he could not have posited his 5,257,493 population of 1900 all upon the Island of Manhattan, and must have meant by New York what we mean by London, Paris, Philadelphia, Chicago—that is, the contiguous

population on different sides of the rivers Thames, Seine, Schuylkill, and Chicago. In fairness to him, therefore, we must compute for an area such as is contained in the cities just named, that is, for what we call the Metropolitan District, including besides the political New York, the near-by region in close view from eminences on this Island, which contains a greater population than is at present (1895) under our City Government. This district will probably contain in 1900 about four and a half millions of people, which is not so very far away from Pintard's five and a quarter millions—only about fourteen per cent. less.

We may project a hypothetical computation beyond Pintard's date, and enquire what will be our population fifty years later than the last census. If the rate of increase of the last fifty years (including the depressed war period) shall be maintained, the year 1940 will witness a population of seven and a half millions within the present limits of New York. The rate of increase of the outlying parts is so various as to make computation of future growth in them a very difficult matter, as all estimates are subject to the law which reduces the rate of increase when population has passed beyond a certain stage. Thus London, taken for precisely the same limits in order to test the working of this law, increased decennially at the rate of twenty-five per cent. for the first forty years of this century, but the rate dropped to twenty per cent. for the next two decennial periods, and fell further to eleven per cent. for the next ten years, and to about nine per cent. for the next ten.

Regarding the "Bowery" Theatre—as it was universally though erroneously termed, as its title was "New York"—and Mr. Hamblin, who was so long identified with it, he, by the burning of the Bowery in 1836, lost heavily, and thereupon leased the ground and went to Europe; but returning in 1837 (see p. 341), he resumed the manage-

ment, which he continued, with the interruption of another fire in 1845 (see p. 321), until his death in 1853. In 1848 he added the lease of the Park Theatre, an unfortunate venture, since the building was burned with heavy loss to him (see p. 444). Hamblin in his late years catered for the million, with plays of the "blood and thunder" order, so that in its locality his theatre was known as the Bowery Slaughter House. A man of irregular private life, he was honorable in all business relations, and his generosity was proverbial.

In the latter years of its existence the price of admission to the Bowery pit was but twelve and one half-cents, and as a result it was the resort of very many boys, and, in many cases, the low price was such an inducement for them to go that they did not hesitate at petty thefts to obtain the small sum required.

As the Volunteer Fire Department has been disbanded and replaced by a Municipal Department (1865), the members of which are paid for their services, it is just to the former that the position it for a long time so deservedly occupied in the confidence of the community, and the zealous and effective discharge of the self-assumed duties of its members, should be acknowledged in the present time, and recorded for the future.

Up to within a few years before the first date of these "Reminiscences," as fire-engines were deficient in capacity to raise water for their supply from a river or cistern, they were supplied either from a stream of water from a pump or by buckets. To obtain the necessary number of the latter to enable water to be borne from a distance, all householders were required to provide themselves each with two leather buckets, with their names painted thereon, in order that they might be returned after being used, and universally they were kept suspended in the main hall or entry of the dwelling, beside the hall lamp, always in place and convenient to reach. Although

householders of later years might object to such a display as not in keeping with marble floors and frescoed ceilings, it was, in the period referred to, held to be a token of reputable citizenship. Upon the occurrence of a fire, all citizens within any practicable distance seized their buckets, and arriving upon the scene of operation, they ranged in line, passing the filled buckets up, while women and boys passed the empty ones down.

It was within this century that engines capable of drawing water and supplying themselves were introduced. In the absence, however, of a distributed supply under a head, as furnished by our hydrants in about 1833, it was very rare when less than three engines, each with two hundred feet of hose, were necessary to conduct and project a stream of water upon a fire. In one case I know, when the cisterns in the vicinity of a fire had been exhausted, a line extending from Greene Street to the North River was resorted to, involving the operation of sixteen engines to obtain a single stream of water.

In support of the claims for the efficiency of the Volunteer Department, it is submitted that the engines were drawn by hand over cobble-stone pavements, and that, with the exception of a small bell on the City Hall and one on the Jail (now Hall of Records), and on the two watch houses in Christopher and Eldridge streets, general alarms of fire were not given, until the bell-ringers of some churches were alarmed and then proceeded to their post, the further to alarm by ringing the bells; and yet, not until the great fire of 1835 had there occurred one which the Department did not subdue.

There is much credit given to the present Fire Department, and justly too, for the unequalled celerity with which its apparatus is harnessed, manned, outside of its house, and in progress to a fire. From the time of

receiving an alarm it is so rapid, five seconds in the day and twenty at night, that, but for the repeated witnessing of it, it would not be credited.

The members of the Volunteer Fire Department were sensitive on this point of celerity of operation, and although they did not retire half-dressed, and slide down a pole instead of running down a stairway, they were expeditious. Thus:

the zealous, when retiring, raised a window in their room in order to enable them more readily to hear an alarm; retained their stockings, and withdrew a basket from under the bed in which were their fire boots and clothes—the operation of dressing was narrowed down to drawing on their boots, the pantaloons which were gathered over them were raised, coat and

cap secured, and the finishing touches were effected while going out of the house and in the street.

In illustration of the zeal displayed by some, and the celerity with which they could reach the engine-house, I know of a case where a person paid a private watchman one dollar per night for eighteen nights to give him the alarm, if one occurred. One occurred, and the watchman having also to alarm another party, he was overtaken in the street by the one he first alarmed.

The point of honor was “to take the engine out,” that



CITY HALL PARK, BROADWAY. JOTHAM SMITH'S DRY GOODS STORE. JOHN JACOB ASTOR'S HOUSE. SITE OF ASTOR HOUSE AND VANDENHEUVEL HOUSE. SITE OF AMERICAN HOTEL

is, to be the first at the house, and as a reward to be entitled to "take the butt" (about end) or hold the pipe, according to the engine being in line, or on the fire.

Of all the theatres herein mentioned I believe none remain (Niblo's having been destroyed) save the old "Bowery," which maintained much of its former character until about 1879, when it was remodelled and renamed the Thalia. Now, under what name I know not, it has become a Jewish theatre, and to old New Yorkers seems strange enough, with its front plastered over with placards in Hebrew.

About this period, or a few years earlier, an Italian, the Duke of Calibretto, accompanied by a French Count, arrived here, and they were received in society. It occurred that the Count was so exceptionally fortunate in card playing that his company was eschewed by the young men who had associated with him, and he soon after returned to France. The Duke remained, and a question arising as to the authenticity of his rank, Mr. August Belmont, through his foreign correspondence, learned that not only was he a veritable duke, but that he represented one of the very oldest of the Italian nobility. Soon after he entered the employment of a man who kept a public-house in Hoboken on the road to Hackensack, and upon the death of the proprietor of the house, he assumed it, and later he occupied a house fronting the ferry at Hoboken, designating it "The Duke's House," which he maintained for a long time in high reputation for excellence of cooking and service.

Before closing these "Reminiscences," it is pertinent to them to put on record a few illustrations of the passenger street travel of the preceding period. In connection, then, with the notices of the primitive stage routes given in the early chapters, the following are added: In 1830 there was established an irregular line of stages (omnibuses) between Bleecker Street and the Bowling Green,

and occasionally a passenger could have himself carried some distance above Bleecker Street. In like manner, so late as 1836, Asa Hall and Kipp & Brown, of the Greenwich lines, had small stages ("carry-alls" they were termed), in which passengers were transferred from Charles Street to their destination within the limit of Twenty-third Street and Seventh Avenue. In 1845 this Broadway line was purchased by John Marshall, who extended the service from Corporal Thompson's (Twenty-third Street and Fifth Avenue) through Fifth Avenue to Thirteenth Street, thence through University Place to Eleventh Street, then to Broadway, through Broadway to Fulton Street, and then to the Brooklyn Ferry. In 1846 Samuel W. Andrews, in company with another, bought the line, consisting of less than twenty stages, increased soon after to thirty.

The character of their service can be judged of by the following estimate: The distance from Twenty-third Street and Fifth Avenue to Brooklyn Ferry, *via* the route given, is $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and the time of transit of one of the stages, with a very liberal deduction for that lost by delays, changing horses, etc., would average one hour and ten minutes, involving an interval of nearly five minutes between the times of service of fifteen stages each way. In 1850 the route was extended to Forty-third Street, and soon after to Forty-seventh Street; the service was increased by a very great addition to the number of stages and the route through Thirteenth and Eleventh streets, through to Broadway.

There was another effective line from Thirty-second Street through Fourth Avenue to Fourteenth Street and thence through Broadway to the South Ferry, and another through Madison Avenue from Forty-second Street to the Wall Street Ferry.

The completion of the Brooklyn Bridge, and the obtaining of a franchise for a railroad in Broadway by Jacob

Sharp, arrested the stage lines, and for a brief period all of them ceased running.

The Messrs. Andrews, and the proprietors of the Fourth Avenue line, put what were termed fare-boxes in their stages, furnishing their drivers with varied sums of money in envelopes, whereby a passenger not being able to put the exact fare in the box, could receive from the driver an envelope containing the value of ten, twenty-five, and fifty cents, or a dollar in change. This was held by the drivers to be too severe a reflection upon their character for honesty, and they organized and "struck." Some persons were so illiberal as to charge that their opposition to the box was because it precluded the opportunity of omitting to return all the fares they received. For a few days the service of the line was broken; but in the end capital and enterprise proved superior to the exigencies of labor. During the brief period of the strike, the efforts of the proprietors of the line to maintain the service afforded much amusement to the public on the route. Mr. Marshall and such persons as he could obtain to aid him undertook the piloting of the stages, and as usual, under like circumstances, the laboring public sympathized with the striking drivers, and the manner in which the drivers of trucks, wagons, and cabs blocked the way of the stages and in race course parlance "pocketed" them, was amusing to all but the passengers and the proprietors of the lines.

The fares of the various lines gradually dropped from 25, 12½, 10, to 6¼ cents. Later the disappearance of the sixpences (6.25 cents), in consequence of the arrest of specie payments at the beginning of the war, had rendered the 6-cent fare so very inconvenient that it was reduced to 5 cents. About 1830 the service of the Brower line was increased by the addition of four-horse vehicles, with a boy collector of the fares (12½ cents) seated on the outside.

On Bloomingdale Road, the several hotels, in every instance but Dodge's at Kingsbridge, were the former country residences of well-known families. Such were "Burnham's," "Batterson's," the "Abbey," "Woodlawn," and "Claremont."

On the East side, in addition to "Cato's," there were on the Third Avenue "Nolan's"; the "Five-Mile House"; "Hazard's," at Eighty-second Street; the "Red House," at One Hundred and Fifth Street, and "Bradshaw's," at One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street.

Customs, manners, and all the elements that constitute that which is called Life, have so changed since the early period of these "Reminiscences," that it is only one who has witnessed the changes who can give full credit to them. The primitive customs of the Knickerbocker have measurably departed. Foreign immigration, commerce, manufactures, and the consequent accumulation of wealth and the changes attendant thereon, have in a great measure obliterated not only the distinctive features of our people of the past century, but even the topography of the city has changed. The Battery as an elegant resort, the Bloomingdale and Cato's roads and Third Avenue, for drives; Stuyvesant's, Sunfish, and Cedar ponds for skating, and the Park Theatre for the drama proper have passed away.

The first of these roads is a street, erroneously termed a Boulevard, the second is closed, and the last invaded by two railroads; the ponds are filled in, and in place of the drama, we have for the greater part ephemeral absurdities as inconsistent in design as they are debasing in exhibition.

The "Home" of early days is regrettably passing; the evening walks in the Battery in the summer, the nut-cracking and candy-pulling parties in the winter of the young, the family whist party of the elders, the evening visiting of neighbors and friends by all, drives on Cato's

or Bloomingdale Road, have given place to drives in Central Park, to dinner at eight o'clock, operas, theatres, balls, and clubs.

In home life of the early days here noted, the woman ruled; as wife, mother, or sister; the home was the cradle of affection, the woman molded the character of the child, and tempered that of the man, for which

"A domestic woman of her husband seen
To be at once both subject and the Queen,
Whilst he, the ruler of their wide domains,
She sitting at his foot-stool reigns."

In this year the administration of the Almshouse by an Act of the Legislature was transferred to a Board of ten Governors, and the following were appointed:

Isaac Townsend, B. F. Pinckney, C. Godfrey Gunther, Isaac J. Oliver, Washington Smith, Wm. L. Pinckney, Chas. Brueninghausen, P. G. Moloney, Anthony Dugro, and James Lynch.

The records of the following incidents, being accidentally laid aside, were omitted in their proper places.

In 1840 I first saw ailanthus trees; they had been brought here some few years previous, and were generally termed the "Pride of China," and were said not only to absorb or dispel miasmatic influence, but to be noxious to flies and insects generally.

1841. September 16. By a resolution of the Common Council a Board of Supervisors was created, consisting of the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen.

1844. The Long Island Railroad, which was commenced in 1834, was opened to Hicksville in 1837, to Southampton in 1841, and in this year to Greenport.

1848. The grooved and square-block pavement, known as the "Russ," was laid in Broadway, but in a few years the surface of the blocks, from the hardness of the

material, became so smooth as to impede traffic over them, and it became necessary to replace them with narrower blocks of a different grit, and granite was substituted.

The "Hunkers" were a faction of the Democratic party, opposed to the "Barnburners"; they were supporters of the National Administration and subsequently they were known as the "Hard shells."

1849. The line of steamers for service hence to Aspinwall—viz., *Oregon*, *Panama*, and *California*, organized and built by Wm. H. Aspinwall and associates—was completed in this year.

The New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, which was chartered in 1817, was opened in 1818 on Fiftieth Street near Fourth Avenue, then removed to Eleventh Avenue and One Hundred and Sixty-third Street. It is a free school for all deaf and dumb children over five years of age, without regard to circumstances of their parents.

In 1850 Henry R. Worthington, representing Worthington & Baker, submitted their pump to Captain Joseph Comstock, then in command of a steamboat hence to Providence, which Captain Comstock, upon the recommendation of his engineer, not only refused, but also was induced to refuse the request of Worthington to be allowed to put it on board the vessel and to connect it to hold and boiler at his own expense, and if, after operation, it did not prove of value, to remove it. He ultimately consented, and it was put on board and connected. Some months after a feed-pump of one of the boilers of the boat became inoperative, and as there were no other known means of supplying it with the necessary water, the arrest of it and the resulting reduced speed of the boat were impending, when Captain Comstock said to his engineer, "Where is that — thing that Worthington put on board? Suppose we try it." Thereupon, though without any faith, the engineer uncovered it from a mass

of material and put it in operation, whereupon the boiler was supplied with the required water and that which was in the hold pumped out. On the return of the boat to this city, Captain Comstock sent for Worthington and gave him a certificate setting forth the efficiency and great value of his pump. This pump with its numerous modifications is now in use in every country in the world, in every steamboat and steamer. A steamboat plying between this city and Brooklyn or Jersey City, or crossing any stream anywhere, is not held to be safe without one, and in some sea steamers there are two and even more.

I have been asked regarding the use of tobacco in the early period of these recitals, and I avail of the opportunity to repeat that tobacco-chewing, and even snuffing, were much more general in the upper classes than at the present time, but cigar-smoking was generally less, and in offices and stores it was rarely to be seen. Pipe-smoking, other than in clay pipes by laborers, was seldom seen, and as to meerschaums and smoking tubes, there were none.

This is the Fourth of July, and the deserted streets and general quiet that pervade, interrupted only at intervals of time and location by a few boys, with their fire-crackers and pistols, render the contrast between the observance of the day now and that of the early period of these reminiscences worthy of a more extended notice than is given at page 62. Thus: As voyages to Europe, other than by a few men on important business, were very infrequent, and as there were very few people who possessed country residences, people remained in the city until the 1st of August, when the summer vacation (one month) of the schools began, and consequently the city was not depopulated as now on the Fourth of July, and in addition thereto all young people, and many of the elder, residing within a practicable distance of the

city, came to it on that day, and added to the observance of the occasion, indulging in roast pig, egg-nog, spruce beer and mead in the booths, and peanuts and oranges in the streets. There was then, and for some years after, an article of fireworks known as a snake from the tortuous manner of its motion when ignited, which our city boys persecuted the country girls with, for, when thrown on the sidewalk near to them, it was sure to give rise to a scream and much commotion. It eventually became so great and so objectionable a nuisance that the further sale of it was forbidden by law.

In conclusion, and in defence of the reference to this and some other matters that might be held unworthy of mention, it is again submitted that in a record of the customs and events of a period, its interest is increased and its integrity only maintained by a full recital of them.

“Nihil est aliud magnum, quam multa minuta.”

There is not anything so powerful as the aggregate of many small things.



NOTES

¹ After the retreat from Long Island, it was a question whether the whole American Army would not be captured in New York, the British being in pursuit. But Mrs. Murray in her house on Murray Hill, with lavish hospitality to General Howe (who, I think, was in command), detained him long enough to allow the Americans to slip by along the shore of the Hudson and occupy Fort Washington and other strong posts. It was said her madeira was the chief instrument to effect this end.

² Later an equestrian statue of George III. in lead was erected within the Green, which, upon the Declaration of Independence (1776), was pulled down and molded into bullets.

The rails were surmounted with figures of the heads of the several members of the Royal family, and at the time of the destruction of the statue these figures were knocked off. The evidences of the fracture are yet visible.

³ A Mr. Williams, who owned much land there and adjoining, presented an acre of it to the Manhattan Co. for the purpose of their building a banking house there, to accommodate it when yellow fever existed in the city.

⁴ This land was part of the common lands of the city, laid out in blocks in 1796. In 1799 it was conveyed to Robert Lyburn for £405 and a perpetual quit-rent of four bushels of good wheat or value thereof.

After several transfers it was sold under foreclosure to Francis Cooper, and sold by him to the Roman Catholics.

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